OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE

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FIREWORK DISPLAY SAVED BY COUNCIL

by Sue Austin

OSWESTRY Town Council has come to the rescue of the town's Bonfire Night and made sure local charities don't miss out after horrendous weather hit the event.

For the past 25 years the firework evening has been organised by the Treble Niners, retired and retained firemen from the town. The event has attracted up to 4,000 people in previous years and raised £65,000.

But last November driving rain meant the cancellation of a torchlit procession to the bonfire – organised by the Rotary Club – and a fraction of the usual attendance at the display at Brogyntyn, behind the fire station.

For the first time in its history the event made a loss with the Treble Niners having to find £200 to balance the books.

Underwrites

This week Oswestry Town Council, which underwrites the event each year, agreed not only to pay the £200 but make it up to £1,000 to allow the Treble Niners to continue its tradition of giving money to charities.

Councillors said they were concerned dejected members may decide not to hold the event in future.

Councillor Vince Hunt said: "Although we underwrite the event every year, this is the first time that the Treble Niners have had to come to us for help."

It was agreed that money could be taken from the Christmas lights budget, which is in profit.

Treble Nine founder member Mike Wilkinson, said: "We are really very grateful to the town council for not only underwriting the event, but ensuring that the charities and good causes that we support will not lose out this year."

Transport and media are at top of agenda

TRANSPORT and the media will top the agenda at Wednesday night's meetings of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce and the Oswestry Chronicle Business Club.

Shropshire transport commissioner Matt Johnson, along with Shropshire Council's Emma Bullard and Will Baugh, will discuss the Sustainable Transport Project at the Chamber's first meeting of the year at The Wynnstay Hotel.

And Martin Wright, editor of the *Shropshire Star*, along with advertisement director Peter Guy will discuss the new digital age and its impact for the future of the media industry at the Business Club.

Oswestry Literary Festival, the Equality Group and Whittington Music Festival will also be on the Chamber's agenda.

"The February meeting has a packed agenda and will focus on traffic, transport and travel in and around the Oswestry area and will be followed by The Chronicle Business Club meeting," said Chamber chairman Heather Noble..

"We have a group of great guest speakers joining us for our meeting and we hope to encourage a lively discussion."

The chamber at 6pm is followed by the Business Club at 7pm. Both are open to the public.

Super farm bid on hold

PLANS to build a 1000-cow super farm near Welshpool have been put on hold after an animal welfare group was granted a High Court judicial review.

In October, Planning Minister Carl Sargeant decided the proposed dairy at Lower Leighton Farm should be allowed to proceed despite a public inquiry inspector recommending refusal.

Now The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has been given the go-ahead for judges to review the decision.

● Review – See Page 11

Drivers are stranded as floods close main roads

HEAVY flooding hit the Oswestry and Welshpool areas again yesterday (Wednesday) as rivers broke their banks, flooding huge swathes of fields and roads and trapping cars.

Several cars were trapped near Llandrinio Bridge before the road was closed.

One of the stranded motorists, who did not want to be named, said: "There were no 'road closed' signs when I came through. I was following another car and getting through alright, but then she stopped and I had to stop and that was it."

Jane Cobham, from Four Crosses, who uses the road to get to work every day, said: "It's like Llandrinio-on-Sea. I don't know why anyone would risk driving through it when it is like this."

Motorists in the Welshpool area were also hit as The Severn flooded, closing the Welshpool to Forden road close to the airport.

There were also problems on the A483 between Welshpool and Newtown.

Mayor takes mask off fundraiser

Mayor Councillor Chris Schofield and mayoress Val Schofield looking at masks on sale at Oswestry Market.

OSWESTRY'S mayor has unmasked his main charity fundraiser for the year – a masquerade ball in the town.

Councillor Chris Schofield and his wife, Val, decided they would boost their mayor's charity fund by holding the ball at the town's Wynnstay Hotel.

The event, on February 21, is raising money for two charities, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Oswestry Bone Cancer Centre Appeal.

"Both charities work hard in the local community, helping people affected by cancer," Councillor Schofield said. "Val and I were present at the launch of the bone cancer centre appeal when we heard about the remarkable work that it is doing at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital."

Bubbly

The evening will include music from singers in the Very Nice Production Company and also a local band, Like Minded. There will also be a glass of bubbly and a three course meal.

Tickets, £35, are available from the Mayor's secretary on (01691) 680222.

"There has been a really good response to the evening. Donations for the raffle would be welcomed," said Cllr Schofield.

Yesterday he took time out from his mayoral duties to look at some of the masks that are made at The Sewing Shop in the Oswestry indoor market.

Alex Jamieson, who has been based in the market for about six months, specialises in fancy dress costumes and accessories including masks for masquerade balls.

Return of ambulance due to rise in 999 calls

AN ambulance is to be based in Oswestry again after a U-turn by health chiefs prompted by a rise in the number of 999 calls.

West Midlands Ambulance Service has confirmed a fully operational ambulance will be stationed in Oswestry, with others being located at Bridgnorth, Craven Arms and Market Drayton from next month.

Health bosses confirmed the decision has been made after the number of 999 calls in the county grew by 5.5 per cent last year.

In 2012 the service received 37,518 emergency calls which rose to 39,574 in 2013 – a rise of 2,056.

Each town has been without an operational ambulance since 2012, when the ambulance service stationed all ambulances at two hubs in Shrewsbury and Telford as part of its controversial Make Ready scheme.

The towns were issued with advanced paramedics who responded to 999 calls from community ambulance stations in blue-light cars with an ambulance only then deployed if required.

The move to reinstate the four ambulances has been made possible by teaming up advanced paramedics with a paramedic from one of the hubs to create an ambulance crew. In Oswestry the crew will start their day from the station in the health centre.

● Reaction – See Page 3

Wind farm discussions

WIND farm issues were discussed by Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies and Prime Minister David Cameron in a one-to-one meeting this week.

Mr Davies said: "David Cameron agreed to a meeting to discuss the issues which are most important to Montgomeryshire".

"During the meeting, the Prime Minister and I had a constructive discussion about the economy, access to public services and the impact of wind farms and power lines."

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NEWS

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Villagers petitioning to try and keep post office open

by Iain St John

VILLAGERS have launched an online campaign to keep their post office open.

They are worried that Glyn Ceiriog Post Office, near Oswestry, will close and its services be transferred to the village shop as part of a huge modernisation programme.

They have launched a Facebook campaign and started a petition on the Change.org website to help safeguard the service.

Postmaster John Keen said the service was one of 6,000 throughout the country involved in the Post Office's network transformation process.

The process is aimed at extending post office hours and improving services.

Mr Keen, who has run the village post office with his wife Gillian for 10 years, said he feared his opening hours and turnover would not meet Post Office criteria.

The 52-year-old said: "We expect to fail their opening hours and turnover tests and so we have appealed to become a community post office so we can carry on.

Process

"If we can become a community post office we will be able to carry on for at least two years. We will just have to wait to hear."

He added: "We have had a huge amount of support with people hoping we can stay as we are. We would like to thank everybody for their support."

The Change.org petition, started by customer Mark Ward, urges bosses not to relocate the post office to a counter in the village shop. More than 100 people have already signed the petition.

Clwyd South AM Ken Skates and MP Susan Elan Jones have also called for answers.

A Post Office spokesman said there was "no threat" to the service in Glyn Ceiriog but did not go as far as ruling out any changes in the future.

Sessions to help young cyclists ditch stabilisers

YOUNG cyclists are invited to throw away their stabilisers and learn to ride at two sessions being held in Oswestry next month.

The free two-hour sessions will take place on February 17 in the indoor hall at The Centre, Oak Street, which has specialised BMX flooring.

Sessions will be held from 10am to noon and from 1pm to 3pm, and children can choose one slot to take part in. Children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the session, with a maximum of two children per adult.

Participants will need a road-worthy bike with stabilisers removed before the session, if possible. Helmets are strongly recommended.

Hot drinks will be provided, but children may like to take a snack and a cold drink.

Booking is essential. To reserve a place visit **www.travelshropshire.co.uk/learntorideoswestry** or for more information call Sustrans Bike It officer Jo Morison on (01691) 677266 or 07833 057599.

Reunion trip raises cash for hospice

Lynsey Kilvert, Hope House area fundraiser, left with Martyn Hall, marketing director at Owen's Coaches.

COACH tour holidaymakers from across the region have raised more than £800 for the Hope House Children's Hospice.

Owen's Travelmaster, based in Oswestry, holds a reunion weekend each year to give their customers the chance to meet up with friends they have made on previous trips.

This year four coaches took almost 200 people for a weekend in and around Cambridge.

Mr Mike Owen said it was always a very popular weekend.

"We have been organising reunion events for about six years travelling to different parts of the UK. Because we have customers from across Shropshire, Mid Wales and into Cheshire as far as Chester, some of our customers were making friends on a holiday and then not see fellow holidaymakers again because the lived some way away. This gives people the chance to meet up, enjoy a social weekend, and find out more about our holidays and tours for the coming year."

He said the weekend always involved a charity raffle.

"Our suppliers are very good and donate prizes. This year we raised more than ever before, bringing our total raised over the years to about £4,000. We support Hope House because it is a local charity."

Hope House Fundraiser Lynsey Kilvert said: "This year the reunion trip raised the fantastic sum of £830 which will go towards helping provide vital services to children, young people and their families in our area.

"We cannot thank Owens Travelmaster and their customers enough for their continued support. Each year they have increased the amount they have raised and in the current economic climate this is a great achievement."

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NEWS

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Pub finds a buyer within two weeks

AN Oswestry pub with a reputation for being part of the local music scene has been snapped up by new owners within two weeks of being put up for sale.

The Golden Lion in Upper Church Street was put on the market on January 7 for £150,000 but selling agent Paramount has revealed it has already been sold.

Steve Oliver, director of Paramount, said: "There were some chains interested but it's been sold to an individual and is still trading.

"People recognise it's a good opportunity to run a good pub and that can't always be said about local pubs. They're often missing the parking or the food.

"The pub changed hands in October last year but was put up for sale again at the start of the year, being marketed as being "excellent value for continued licensed use".

Locals, worried that it could be snapped up by developers, petitioned for the pub to be designated as an asset of community value.

At Oswestry Town Council's development and planning committee meeting last week members of the committee had supported the idea. Shropshire Council will make a decision next month.

The new owner was unavailable for comment.

Tower organist to play concert

AN organist at the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool will be performing in Shropshire. John Bowdler will play at the Marches School, Oswestry on March 7 from 7.30pm to 11pm.

The evening will raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. Tickets are £7 from organiser Betty Bromley on (01691) 653493.

Councillor welcomes news that ambulance is returning

THE return of an Oswestry based ambulance to tackle increased 999 calls and longer waiting times has been welcomed by a leading councillor.

West Midlands Ambulance Service received a number of angry responses from patients following a series of incidents where an ambulance took more than 40 minutes to arrive.

This followed the introduction of the ambulance service's controversial Make Ready scheme in October 2012.

Under the scheme, all of the ambulances serving the county were based at two hubs in Shrewsbury and Telford.

by Graham Breeze

Now, after seeing 999 calls rise by 5.5 per cent during 2013, ambulance chiefs have announced plans to station one ambulance in Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Craven Arms and Market Drayton from next month.

The move has been welcomed by Councillor David Lloyd from Gobowen, a member of the Health 4 Oswestry watchdog group in the town, who had called for a better service. He said he was delighted with the news.

"Any improvement to the service for the Oswestry area must be welcomed," said Mr Lloyd. "The health group has had worrying reports of delays in the arrival of ambulances.

System

"Mercifully these have not proved fatal. News that an ambulance is to be based in Oswestry is also good news for our medical centre, where it will be based."

Under the previous system, towns were issued with advanced paramedics who responded to 999 calls from community ambulance stations in blue-light cars.

A spokesman for WMAS said: "There have been cases where the paramedic got to the scene quickly but then there was a long wait for the ambulance. That has led to complaints.

"Now an ambulance will start each day in Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Craven Arms and Market Drayton."

The move to reinstate the four ambulances has been made possible by teaming up advanced paramedics with a paramedic from one of the hubs to create an ambulance crew.

Fan Monty is to be buried in Town shirt

A MONTGOMERY man who often walked from his home to Shrewsbury to watch his favourite football team will be buried in the team colours today (Thursday).

Michael "Monty" Evans, who was well-known among Shrewsbury fans for regularly making the 20 mile trip, died on January 3 aged 69 with no close relatives. His funeral has been arranged by an administrator.

Now a special funeral will mark his deep love for the club at Montgomery Church.

Club flags will be draped over his coffin, while Mr Evans will make his final journey in a club shirt with his nickname 'Monty' on.

Club officials have been involved in arranging the funeral and Martin James, head of community development, will be one of the pallbearers.

Also attending will be shop co-ordinator, Sib Hayes, who has supplied a shirt with "Monty 69 Legend" on it, a pair of tracksuit bottoms and a football socks for Mr Evans to wear on his final journey.

The coffin will also be draped in Shrewsbury Town "Come on you Shrews" and the blue and amber striped flags.

A collection will be made at the funeral and proceeds will be used to create a suitable tribute to Mr Evans at the Greenhous Meadow.

Mr James said: "We know he would regularly walk to our matches from his home in Montgomery for many years and we were saddened to hear of his passing."

Carnival role appeal

SECONDARY school girls from Llanfair Caereinion are being invited to put themselves forward to be this year's Llanfair Carnival Queen.

The "queen" should be in high school at the time of the carnival, which will take place on June 21. E-mail **cathlewis@btinternet.com** or call (01938) 811775.

Centre housing plans attacked

Tom Casewell stands in front of the old Leisure Centre in Oswestry.

PLANS for housing on the site of Oswestry's former leisure centre have been attacked.

As part of Shropshire Council's Site Allocation and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan the site has been earmarked for housing but an Oswestry man is to voice strong objections.

On Monday night Oswestry Town Council made no objection to the former Leisure Centre on College Road, land on Alexandra Road, the Richard Burbidge site and at Mile End, to be zoned for housing.

Mayor, Councillor Chris Schofield, said: "We have to be real here. Our young people are going to grow up and they need houses to live in."

But retired labourer Tom Casewell of Llynclys, near Oswestry, has attacked the council for backing the scheme and wants the site developing for parking.

The 65 year old claims Oswestry is missing out on thousands of pounds of income from visitors unable to find suitable parking.

"Oswestry desperately needs an area where drivers of mobile homes and lorries can stop," he said.

"Many of the vehicles are too high for our town centre car parks and that means people are unable to stop and are unable to visit Oswestry.

"We are sending out a message that Oswestry does not want visitors and turning people away. I will be asking the town council to change their minds."

Hospital boosted by whist players

A MILITARY whist drive organised in Four Crosses has resulted in £1,070 being handed to The Movement Centre at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

The whist drive took place on December 27 with match funding from Barclays Bank.

Gwyn Ashton, one of the organisers said: "This is a remarkable amount to be able to hand over and we are very grateful to Barclays for agreeing to match fund our fundraising effort.

"The money will go towards helping the Movement Centre provide much needed equipment for young patients and we are delighted to be able to help."

Movement Centre business manager Rhona Avery said the donation would help five or six children with their training.

"This is a fantastic achievement and we are extremely grateful to all involved, whist players, local supporters and Barclays."

Man admits shotgun and drug charges

AN Oswestry man has been warned to expect jail after being caught with a sawn-off shotgun and 40 cannabis plants.

Royston Pughe, 42, from Shrewsbury Road in Oswestry, was given the warning after he admitted possessing a prohibited firearm – a shotgun with a barrel less than 30cm long – on May 25 last year.

Pughe, who was living in Matching Green, Essex at the time, appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court on Monday where he admitted the charge. Pughe was granted bail until March 5.

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NEWS 01691 668094

Competitive Charles is given Blue Peter Badge

SIBLING rivalry started early for six-year-old Charles Miller.

His competitive spirit led to him becoming one of the youngest children to be awarded a coveted Blue Peter Badge.

Charles' older brother, Oliver, won a Royal Mail Stamp competition last year designing one of the 2013 Christmas stamps.

The seven-year-old wrote a letter to the BCC television show telling presenters about how well he had done and was rewarded with a Blue Peter badge.

But its arrival did not go down well with young Charles, who promptly set about trying to win one himself.

Envious

His father, Rob Miller, who admitted being "utterly envious" himself about Oliver's Blue Peter Badge said Charles was a budding ornithologist and artist.

"He has been drawing and painting amazing pictures of wildlife, mainly the feathered variety, since he was three or four years old," said Mr Miller, of Penybontfawr, near Oswestry.

"Some of his artwork has been displayed on Liverpool Museums' website galleries, and as soon as he reached his sixth birthday in December and was eligible for a badge, he made his own application with an in-

by Graham Breeze

depth, handwritten letter to Blue Peter, along with examples of his work."

Mr Miller added: "Remarkably, they replied within a matter of days with a lovely, personal letter stating how impressed they were with all he had done and enclosed a special green ecology badge.

"He wrote the letter on his sixth birthday and so he must be one of the youngest ever recipients of a Blue Peter badge."

As well as his gaining his own Blue Peter Badge, Charles revealed another ambition which would emulate his big brother.

Mr Miller said: "Before he went to bed, the day he received his badge, Charles said: "Dad, does this mean I will be in the paper, like Oliver was?".

The two brothers are both pupils at Moreton First school.

Oliver and Charles Miller with their Blue Peter badges.

Band was a winner in brass contest

IFTON Colliery Band has been named one of the best in the country after winning its section in the Butlin's mineworkers brass band contest.

The band travelled to Skegness for the competition, under the direction of conductor Wayne Ruston.

Band treasurer Barrie Roberts said: "The system is worked a bit like football in five divisions, and we performed in the Fourth Section.

"We all performed *Three Saints* by Goff Richards, which we'd been practising since the autumn.

"To go that distance and play that well was wonderful."

The band of 26, including three percussionists, were on stage early on January 18 and had to wait until the evening to hear the results.

But judges Ian Porthouse and Alan Fernie were united in their praise of the band, giving marks that wouldn't have been out of place in a higher section.

And they awarded Ifton with two trophies – one to keep and one which will have to be given back – and a cheque for £2,000.

Barrie said: "It's something everyone can have a go at and try and play as best you can. The sound of a brass band seems to appeal to all ages."

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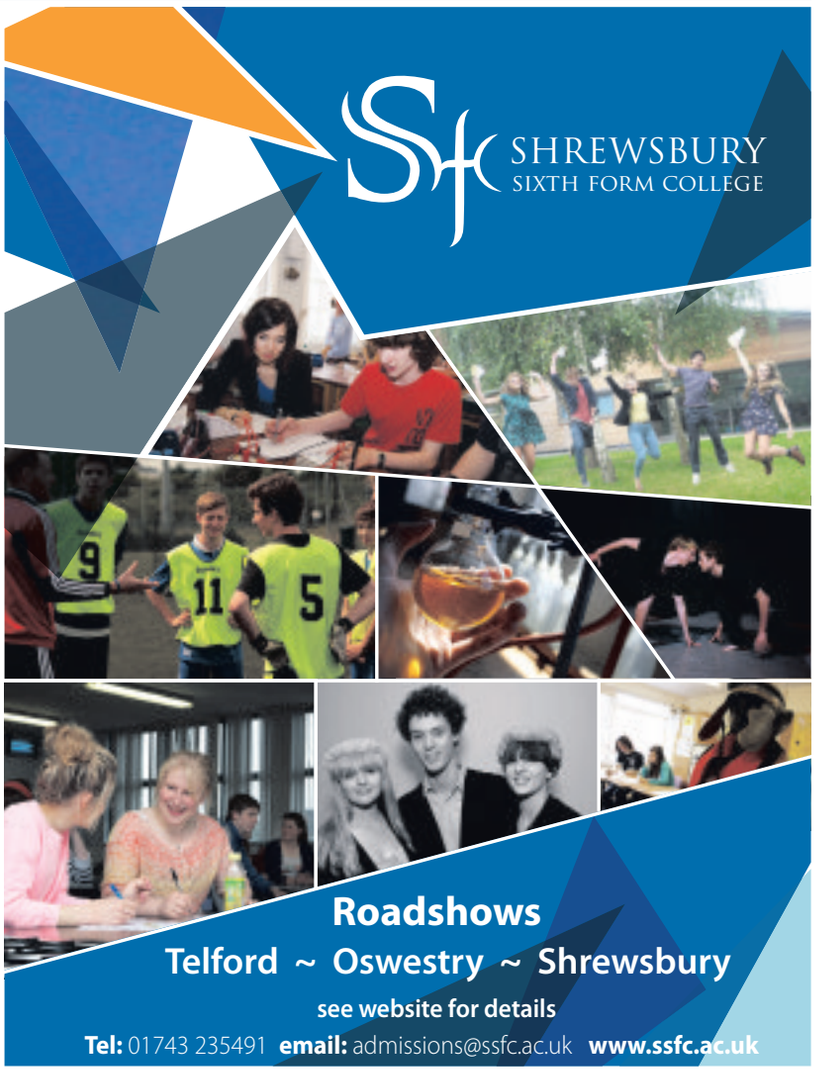

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NEWS 01691 668094

Fundraising walker passes away after cancer battle

A CANCER sufferer who walked to Rodney's Pillar on New Year's Eve to raise thousands of pounds to help build a classroom in Kenya has died.

David Lawson, 34, a journalist from Upper Brook Street in Oswestry, who had hoped to raised £3,000 with his trek to the top of the hill on the Breiddens, passed away at Severn Hospice on Saturday.

But his courage has been rewarded with the sum now topping £10,000, enough for the Ellesmere-based Kenyan Schools Project to build two classrooms and help equip them.

by Sue Austin

His mother Betty Lawson said her youngest son had been a joy to know.

"He was a gentle giant," she said. "He was so content and happy with his life and remained happy until the end."

After attending the Marches School and North Shropshire College, Mr Lawson went to Loughborough University and studied publishing and IT before becoming a journalist for the *Border Counties Advertizer*.

Talented

"He went there as a stop gap and stayed for 12 years. He said he loved his job, loved meeting so many interesting people," Mrs Lawson said.

A talented athlete, Mr Lawson was a member of the Oswestry Olympians and ran the 200 metres for school, for the county and for Wales. He also enjoyed basketball, mountain biking and hill walking.

"He liked nothing better than spending time, outdoors, with his wonderful friends," Mrs Lawson said. "He also enjoyed spending time with his family – his brother and sister, Andy and Sarah, and his five nephews and nieces."

"His friends have been a wonderful support to him and we can not thank the Severn Hospice enough for the last few days."

Oswestry Town Council clerk, David Preston said on behalf of the council: "David always brought his smile into the room and was respected by everyone who was fortunate to share his company."

A service of thanksgiving for his life will be held at St Oswald's Parish Church on February 7 at 2pm with donations for the Severn Hospice in lieu of flowers.

Fundraiser David Lawson, 34, passed away at Severn Hospice on Saturday.

Focus on how to put camera to better use

A ONE-day digital photography course will be held on February 8 in the beautiful surroundings of Chirk Castle, near Oswestry.

The course will run from 10am to 4pm and will look at how the camera works and how to use the aperture settings to really bring pictures alive.

Joe Martin, from No Fear Photography, said: "The course starts at 10am when we will be inside to look at slides, and then we will take what we learn outside to put it into practice.

"We keep our course small so that everyone will have some time for one-to-one tuition through the day.

"By the end of the day you won't be using the auto button, you will be controlling your camera yourself to take a photo that you are proud of."

The course costs £80 to include tuition, lunch and entrance to the castle for the day.

For more information, or to book a place, visit **www.nofearphotography.com** or call 07876 194438.

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FEATURES AND COMMENT

01691 668094

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

I AM absolutely gobsmacked at a decision taken this week to hold a High Court judicial review into the building of a dairy farm near Welshpool.

Hasn't this debate rolled on long enough?

In October, Planning Minister Carl Sargeant decided the proposed dairy – often dubbed as a super farm – at Lower Leighton Farm should be allowed to proceed despite a public inquiry inspector recommending refusal.

Now The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has been given the go-ahead for judges to review the Welsh government's decision.

Mr Sargeant said the economic benefits outweighed other considerations when he reached his judgement and accepted all the assurances given on animal welfare by farmer Fraser Jones.

Surely precedents have already been set by the granting of permission for similar farms, so isn't this all just a complete waste of time and taxpayers' money?

Farmers such as Fraser Jones are as concerned about the health and well being of their stock as anyone at WSPA. After all their livelihoods depend on it.

Had a judicial review been granted on grounds of the location alongside a school it would have been more acceptable.

I find it really amazing that planners think it OK to plonk this huge development where they have. Unless of course they know something about the school that we don't.

❑❑❑❑❑❑

SPARE a thought this week for local MP Owen Paterson.

The Environment Secretary has barely recovered from his badger cull exploits when he finds himself submerged in some of the worst flooding the country has ever seen.

The MP for North Shropshire must have thought it would be plain sailing when he was shipped back to the mainland after serving as Northern Ireland Secretary.

You don't hear me speaking up for our politicians too often but I can't help feeling he has been handed a rough deal with this portfolio. He must long for his days as a backbench MP.

❑❑❑❑❑❑

WHAT is it that attracts drivers to driving through flood water?

As flooding becomes more common it seems more drivers think it's OK to drive through water, regardless of the dangers.

Once again this week motorists found themselves trapped as engines stalled in flood water across the region, causing problems for the rescue services and other motorists. Even ignoring warning signs.

The simple answer is to look for an alternative route. The repercussions of getting your car caught in floodwater can be extremely costly.

It simply isn't worth the risk and can also prove extremely costly and embarrassing.

Oswald's Well in Oswestry is a sign of links with the king. The story is that a bird dropped his arm on the site and a spring appeared.

Oswald's head adorns the top of this 12th centuary reliquary.

The story of his exile is thought to have inspired Tolkein to create Aragorn in Lord of the Rings.

King's links with Tolkein hero revealed by author

A biography of the king who died on the field of battle in Oswestry has made interesting links with a modern literary classic. Iain St John reports

KING Oswald, who died in battle at Oswestry in the seventh century, was the likely inspiration behind a major character in JRR Tolkein's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, according to a book which explores his legend.

And Oswald and his reign was also hugely influential in major aspects of the history of Britain from its involvement in the Crusades to the forming of political and religious institutions, according to author Max Adams.

Oswald and his exploits are already well known to many in Shropshire, particularly through his association with Oswestry.

Influence

The name Oswestry is thought to be a corruption of "Oswald's Tree" and historians say he was defeated and killed in a great battle against the pagan Penda, King of Mercia, in 642AD.

Penda, as a warning to others who might challenge his rule, dismembered Oswald's body and hung his limbs on the branches of a tree.

Oswald's influence remains in Oswestry and the town has a spring known as Oswald's Well, which is supposed to have originated where a bird dropped Oswald's arm. The parish church is also named after the saint.

But Mr Adams, a critically acclaimed biographer and archaeologist, says in *The King in the North: The Life and Times of Oswald of Northumbria*, Oswald's legacy is far greater than many people realise.

Author Max Adams says Oswald is a real heroic figure from the time of Beowulf.

He suggests Oswald's return after a long exile, winning the throne by bravery in battle, inspired JRR Tolkein, an Anglo-Saxon scholar, to create Aragorn in the Lord of the Rings.

And he says Oswald has wide influence on other aspects of Britain.

He writes: "Even by the standards of the day his was a short and bloody rule, his end summary and brutal.

"In death his severed head and arms were displayed on stakes at a place which came to be known as Oswald's Tree or Oswestry. His skull, a sacred possession of Durham Cathedral, exhibits a sword-cut wide enough to accommodate three fingers.

"Oswald's historical significance is greater even than the sum of his parts.

"He forged a hybrid culture of Briton, Irish, Scot and Anglo-Saxon, which gave rise to a glorious age of arts and language symbolised by his foundation of the monastery on Lindisfarne and the manuscripts later crafted there by monks. His political legacy was in part responsible for the Crusades and for Henry VIII's break with Rome, and for the idea that Britain is a Christian state.

"If popular history needed a heroic figure from the age of Beowulf, there is no need to invent one. Oswald was the real thing."

The new biography is available now.

Oswestry mayor Chris Schofield said he was intrigued by the suggestion Oswald could have been the inspiration for a Lord of the Rings character.

He said: "Oswald is an important figure in our history and anything which brings in tourists and visitors to the area to find out more is welcome. We would welcome a film crew here any time to find out more about this area."

The King in the North: The Life and Times of Oswald of Northumbria is out now, published by Head of Zeus.

CHART TOPPERS

RAY SPILLER

Over 50 years ago the charts started and this column will look back at them on this day, January 25, 2014, five, 15, 25, 35 and 45 years ago

FIVE YEARS AGO…2009

Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, better known as Lady Gaga, reached number one in January 2009. Just Dance was at the top spot for a few weeks. This was Gaga's first number one hit. Since then she has seen bigger success with nine more singles reaching the top 10.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO…1999

In 1976, Dr. Hook took the single A Little Bit More to number two in the charts. But 23 years later in 1999, 911 took the same single to number one for a week. In 1996, the band won GMTV's Search For The Next Big Thing.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO…1989

One of the most watched programmes of the late 1980s came from Australia – Neighbours. It was the programme that gave us Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan. Kylie had already had a number one with I Should Be So Lucky in 1987. In January 1989, the pair duetted and went to the top of the charts with Especially For You.

THIRTY FIVE YEARS AGO…1979

One of the most popular records of all time had a three-week spell at number one in 1979. And, of course, today no party is complete without Village People's YMCA (think of those arm movements).

FORTY FIVE YEARS AGO…1969

Scottish group Marmalade has had two separate spells at number one with the song Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da. Their total stay at number one was for three weeks. They were the first Scottish act to top the charts.

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WHICH IS THE BEST WAY TO EVICT TENANT FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RENT?

Q: I have a cottage which I have rented out on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy for the last 12 months. No deposit was taken. In October 2013 the tenant lost his job and was without income for several weeks. Because he got another job quickly I agreed to accept October's rent by instalments made up by paying extra in November and December. However, he has paid nothing since September and seems to have spiralled out of control. Which is the best way to evict him?

A: Under the Housing Act 1988, tenants on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy have security of tenure. This means you need to obtain a court order to evict them if they refuse to leave voluntarily.

Before starting court proceedings you must serve a notice giving them 14 days to pay the arrears. If they fail to pay, under Section 8 of the Act you can apply to the court for a hearing to gain a possession order for the property and a judgment against the tenants for the rent arrears they owe. Provided they owe at least 2 months' rent arrears, both when the Section 8 Notice is served and at the hearing date, the Court must make a mandatory order for possession. However, should the tenants pay the rent arrears, or reduce them to less than 2 months', they will be able to remain in the property.

Alternatively you could apply under the accelerated possession procedure, but you cannot include a claim for rent arrears owed. You would firstly need to serve notice under Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988, requiring your tenants to leave. Proceedings could then be issued after two months have expired from the date the notice was served. The Court must grant you possession if notice has been served in accordance with Section 21 and you can produce the written tenancy agreement.

Further information relating to this question is available from Nicholas Kennan, a Solicitor Advocate with GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk. For Personal Injury and Family matters we offer a FREE legal diagnostic clinic every Wednesday 12-3pm (no appointment necessary). GHP Legal holds the Law Society Lexcel Quality Mark Accreditation

LETTERS

01691 668094

Memories of meeting my mother-in-law first

I REMEMBER the day I first met the lady who was to become my mother-in-law.

She was seated at the kitchen table on to which she had emptied the contents of her purse.

Times then, like now, were tight. The war was not long over, and in truth there was not much on the table.

She was trying to decide how much she needed to put back into her purse to keep body and soul together, and how much she could afford to donate to a charity trying to bring clean drinking water to children in Africa.

A noble cause.

That was well over 50 years ago and I don't remember any period during the intervening 50 years when similar appeals have not abounded. They're on TV now, and now of course you are asked to pay £2 per month by direct debit but, in essence, it is the same appeal.

How is this possible, I ask? Just one person contributing £1 per month over 50 years and we have accumulated a total of £600. Suppose there were only 100 donors in the UK, then the total now rises to £60,000.

Let's be conservative and say 30 countries in Europe donated. Now we're up to a total of £1.8 million, and that's with only 100 donors per country at only £1 per month. May I now ask, where has all the money gone? Mother-in-law died years ago and I would hate to think her sacrifice went on a black hole of African political expense claims.

PETER J H SHARMAN
Arddleen

Be strong is best message

WATCHING a recent TV documentary about people who suffer with stress I recalled my grandmother, who had three sons serving in World War Two. She did not receive counselling or have social workers calling, drinking cups of tea whilst being paid massive wages – she got a job making munitions in Wrexham, putting her own life at risk. We should encourage our young to be strong and stand on their own two feet. A nation without strength will fall, and soon be taken over by others.

B MORGAN
Oswestry

Nothing came about by chance

THE wonders of modern science never cease to amaze us old folk, we hardly had a radio, never mind a television set, and the phone was in a box down the road – now it's the indispensable accessory for everyone under 60.

Letters had to be written by hand and posted. I'm writing this by e-mail on a laptop, I haven't a clue how it works.

The greatest computer ever made is on top of our shoulders with x-gigabytes of memory, but recall isn't so good when it is past 70 years old.

What a brilliant concept and design. It must have taken years for them to work out.

Yet our children are being taught that this all came about by pure chance.

A random collection of dust particles and some water, left to itself for millions of years gradually became the finest machine in existence, man.

If you can believe that then pigs can definitely fly.

But this is what teachers are being forced to teach our children, no argument, no alternative reasoning, no Creator.

It show the thought police are in control.

RON JONES
Oswestry

Days of nailed on studs and baggy shorts

What a save! It's the semi final of the Welsh Amateur Cup played at Welshpool in March 1938. The teams involved were Wem Town and Aberystwyth. This is the Aberystwyth goalie in action.

Chance to aid trust helping children

MANY people will be trying to stick to New Year resolutions and hoping to make a difference, either for themselves or for others. Whatever the reason – be it getting fit, participating in a sporting event, signing-up for a once-in-a-lifetime challenge, or taking up voluntary work – The Children's Trust would love to hear from you. We need you to help us make a difference to children with brain injury.

The Children's Trust, the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury, is celebrating its 30th anniversary and is hoping, with the help from the public, to make it a memorable and successful year.

We would love to hear from people who would like to represent the trust in the London Marathon, the Great North Run, the Great South Run or Brighton Marathon or the Prudential Ride London-Surrey 100-mile bike ride on August 10 or visit **www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk** for more ideas.

PHIL TUFNELL
The Children's Trust

Compensation for cattle is main TB cost

THE reason TB in cattle costs the nation billions is because we compensate farmers when cattle are destroyed – this for an industry that represents 0.5 per cent of the national workforce and contributes under one per cent to the GDP.

Perhaps we should consider halving the compensation to farmers and giving the rest to conservation groups to trap and vaccinate badgers.

This is already happening in Shropshire and could be the way ahead. If a farmer has badgers on their land they could contact their local conservation group who would come along, trap and vaccinate the badger.

After all farmers receive millions in farm subsidies, compliments of the taxpayer. My comments do not apply to struggling hill farmers or those on smallholdings.

But let's have fair play for the innocents – the taxpayer and the wildlife.

ROD SHAW
Shrewsbury

Appalled by prosecution of a family

I AM utterly appalled by the decision of the 'rules are rules' brigade persecuting a family for their right to take a holiday. I thought various factories acts in the 1800s gave provision for this.

Perhaps the right to family life has gone the same way of many other values.

If it was open season on holidays that chaos would rule but to suggest one week can ruin a child's life is just barking mad. They probably learned more about history, culture and geography than in any classroom.

What about cancelled school because of snow, teachers' right to demonstrate and illness of staff.

I had several months off school for illness, it didn't do my education any harm.

CHRIS ADAMS
Oswestry

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU	01952 254605	letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Yet another example of madness in EU

PROPOSALS to reduce the speed on UK motorways are just another example of EU madness.

While the European Union preaches to member states about environmental issues, it fails to look at the way it conducts itself.

Recently, MEPs received an e-mail from bureaucrats at the EU, informing them that they would now be turning TVs off in MEPs offices between visits to Strasbourg.

As Strasbourg Parliament is only open one week a month, this meant TVs were being left on for three weeks at a time – and it has taken the EU this long to realise.

It is no wonder that polls continue to indicate that a growing majority of people in this country now seek a referendum on EU membership altogether.

NIKKI SINCLAIRE
MEP for the West Midlands

Our politicians are to blame for UK's ruin

IT was politicians who invented the Common Market; it was politicians of all persuasions who signed the treaties which have ruined our country and it was politicians who agreed and signed the myriad of clearly anti-British regulations which have systematically dismantled Britain, its sovereignty, governance, democracy, its 1,000-year-old judicial system, health service and its borders.

Our politicians never had any authority in Europe and have relinquished any they once had here. It is Government policy to regulate what the 'useless' can claim from national funds to £300 per week per household – a tidy saving when multiplied by 646 MPs.

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

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A second singing session for choir

A SINGING group in Oswestry has proved so popular that it has grown too big for its room and a second session has had to be launched.

The group at Oswestry Library is a free class organised by the Workers' Educational Association as part of research being carried out into whether or not adult education brings health benefits.

Sheila Brégeon, Shropshire WEA programme area manager, said: "The first singing group filled up almost immediately.

"We have over 30 people on it and just can't squash any more into the room.

"We set up a waiting list but also unfortunately had to turn away some people who unexpectedly turned up for the first session. This has led us to decide to start a second group so that everyone who wants to will be able to sing.

The new course will start on February 3 at the Memorial Hall in Oswestry from 10.30am to 12.30pm and will run weekly until the end of July except on bank holidays. The course is free.

Mrs Brégeon said: "No one will have to audition, sing on their own if they don't want to or be able to read music."

Booking is advisable. Call (01952) 614451 or **telford centre@wea.org.uk**

Packed meeting told threat of power line stunting area

by Iain St John

THE threat of a 33-mile power line running through Shropshire and Mid Wales is already stunting business growth and devastating property prices, a packed public meeting has heard.

Business owners and county residents told Shropshire Council leader Keith Barrow and Environment Secretary Owen Paterson they felt power firm bosses were "playing with their lives" by proposing to run a power line through the region.

Mr Paterson, MP for North Shropshire, told the meeting he shared the concerns, dubbing the energy plans "stupid".

The meeting at The Venue at Oswestry was attended by about 200 people and was staged by Shropshire Council to discuss National Grid's plans for a 33-mile power line from near Cefn Coch, in Mid Wales, to Lower Frankton, near Oswestry.

Inquiry

The line will serve proposed Mid Wales windfarms which are currently subject to a planning inquiry. National Grid plans to bury about a quarter of the line as it passes through the Meifod valley in Mid Wales but all of the Shropshire section is set to be carried overhead on pylons.

The firm says it will look to use T-pylons to carry the line, which are about 15 metres shorter than traditional pylons.

Last Friday's meeting heard the final route had not yet been agreed – but the mere threat of having a line close to properties was having a devastating impact on businesses and individual householders.

Whittington farmer and sausage and bacon producer Jamie Ward said he had been planning to sell a farmhouse in the area in order to support his business.

Owen Paterson speaking at the event..

Members of the public packed into the meeting at The Venue in Oswestry.

Mr Ward said as soon as the possible route of the line was announced, and potential buyers were told it was near the farmhouse, interest in the property halted.

Clive Knowles, managing director of the British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry, said the proposed route had interrupted plans he had for a tourism attraction at the site. He said he plans to develop a sculpture park but added: "We now realise the pylons could be in our backyard, right through the sculpture park, directly in line with our front door."

Mr Knowles said his property had been worth about £3 million but had been told by estate agents it could be only about half that now because of the pylons threat.

Maesbrook woman Sue Forgie said she had hundreds of people interested in buying her house before it emerged the pylons could run about half a mile from her property.

Mrs Forgie said she had "absolutely zero" viewings after it came to light the pylons could run close to her home.

Mr Paterson said he needed further hard evidence about the blight the plan was creating so he could fight the threat.

A show of hands at the meeting found the audience was unanimously against the pylon line, windfarms and subsidies for windfarm operators. Councillor Keith Barrow said Shropshire Council would be sending its objections to the power project to National Grid.

Pupils get lessons in Buddhism by monk

PUPILS at Oswestry School welcomed a Tibetan Buddhist monk as part of lessons on the world's faiths.

Yönten is a monk at the Nalanda Monastery near Toulouse, but grew up in Pant, near Oswestry, and returns to Shropshire to visit his family each year.

Karen Lentink, head of the prep department, said she had invited him to talk to the Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils after one of the children's parents mentioned him.

"He spoke about his life in the monastery and explained his thoughts. We're hoping he's going to come again every year because his visit was so successful."

The visit was organised in connection with World Religion Day, which was on January 19, and Yönten, who became a monk when he was 35, shared his experiences of Buddhism with the pupils.

Mrs Lentink said: "He spoke to a group of about 45 children and they listened very carefully.

"They asked some really thought provoking questions. They talked about happiness and he asked them about whether they would like to feel happy some of the time or all of the time. They were saying that if you feel happy all of the time you wouldn't appreciate it as much, and they were asking him about his thoughts on that as well."

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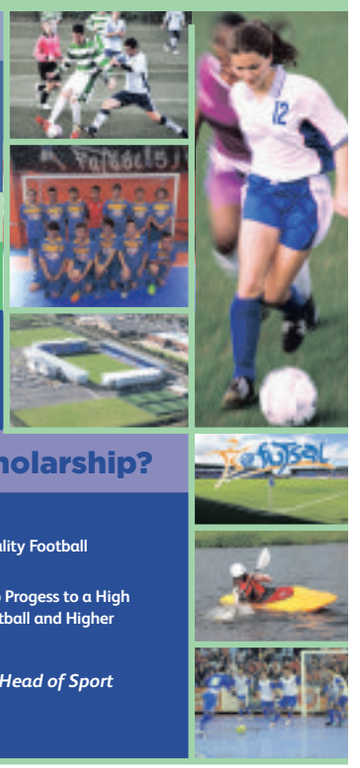

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Brand New Football Scholarship at Walford Campus in Partnership with Shrewsbury Town FC!

The Sport Department at Walford and North Shropshire College (WNSC) is continuing its growth with the exciting announcement of a new boys and girls Football Scholarship in partnership with Shrewsbury Town Football Club (STFC).

Principal Andrew Tyley comments, "We are delighted to be able to extend further our sport curriculum offer in partnership with Shrewsbury Town. The new football programmes starting at Walford this summer will complement the existing Centre of Excellence and Futsal programmes which are already well established, producing professional players such as Joe Hart and Dave Edwards. This new venture is a win-win for the College, the Club and - above all - young people who want to combine sports studies with their passion for football."

Often for girls and boys at 16/17 at the end of Junior Football or at the culmination of leaving a centre of excellence or Development Centre, there is a lack of opportunity for them to continue their development, progressing to a high level of the football pyramid. This Scholarship opportunity aims to give aspirational footballers the chance to continue their football development alongside achieving a full level 2 or 3 academic qualification (A Levels, L2/L3 Extended Diploma in Sport).

The benefits of the Scholarship include; achieving recognised qualifications that set-up students for university or employment, improving technically, tactically and physically as a player, competing within high level Midlands leagues that would not be available post-16 in the Shrewsbury area and also, players are still free to sign for their local Sunday or Midweek football club.

Martin James, Head of Human Resources and Community Development at STFC is really positive about the news and comments, 'This is an exciting development for Walford and North Shropshire College and Shrewsbury Town is delighted to endorse the development of football in all of its forms. We hope that this new venture will attract male and female footballers form across the county.'

There are even more benefits for the Scholars which include; a free-home STFC match day ticket, the opportunity to help out at the ground on match days, the opportunity to undertake additional football coaching qualifications, being coached by STFC fully UEFA qualified staff and training and playing in STFC colours.

If the Scholarship sounds a great option for Sep 2014, you can find out more now! STFC is hosting a dedicated evening for interested boys and girls who would like to find out more about this exciting Scholarship. The evening is taking place on 11th February at 6.30pm at the Club's Football Ground, The New Meadow, there is no need to book although an indication of attendance by email would be welcome. Dan Stevens, Head of Department for Sport at WNSC

L-R Andrew Tyley, Principle, Walford and North Shropshire College shaking hands with Steve Reece, Academy Manager, Shrewsbury Town Football Club at the New Meadow football ground.

will be available on the evening for people to speak to about the academic qualification and the football coaching elements and commented 'Adding this provision to our recently launched Sport Coaching Degree programme further develops our commitment to being an elite hub for sporting excellence both academically and practically, complimenting all our other existing sport qualifications with clear pathways for students right from Level 1 to Level 6 at the college. We would expect a strong interest from existing FE students and year 11 leavers so would urge applicants to contact us as soon as possible'.

The College also has its Spring Open Events coming up, and those interested are invited to come along to find out more. The Oswestry Open Evening is Thursday 13th February 5.30pm-8pm and the Walford Open Day is Saturday 8th February from 10am-2pm.

To contact Dan Stevens, Head of Sport, call 01691 688084 or email d.stevens@wnsc.ac.uk

Primary students team up for game

PUPILS from seven primary schools across the Oswestry area took part in the first primary mixed basketball tournament.

Each school took six players from Years 5 and 6 to the tournament at The Marches School.

The 42 pupils were then provided with a training session which included warm up activities, skill development and fun games.

Teams from Bryn Offa, Criftins, Selattyn, Trefonen, Welshampton, Whittington and Woodside played matched before four teams progressed to compete for the trophy. The team from Bryn Offa was eventually crowned champion.

During the day the pupils were looked after by a team of young Marches School leaders aged 12-16, who also umpired the games.

Sian Scott, PE teacher at The Marches School, said: "It was a fantastic event, it ran so smoothly because of the help from the young leaders and once again, the leaders surpassed themselves in terms of professionalism, skill and great attitude and enthusiasm.

"A big thank you to the young leaders and the participating primary schools and good luck to Bryn Offa in the school games play-offs!"

The event was held on January 15.

Screenwriter's praise for town's literary festival

ACCLAIMED screenwriter Frank Cottrell Boyce praised the organisers of Oswestry's literary festival as he announced this year's line-up of guests.

by Pam Kingsley

The man who co-wrote the script for the London Olympics opening ceremony, and whose latest film *The Railway Man* is now in cinemas, unveiled the programme for Oswestry's fifth Literary Festival at a launch night in the town on Friday.

Mr Cottrell Boyce has become patron of this year's event, which will be headlined by best-selling writer and documentary maker Jon Ronson.

Popular

Other names on the bill include comic romance author Carole Matthews, thriller writer Julia Crouch and Paul Rees, former editor of Q magazine, who will talk about his new biography of Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant.

"I really congratulate Oswestry LitFest for securing some of the UK's most popular writers, novelists, journalists and broadcasters for this year's festival," Mr Cottrell Boyce told an audience at The Dining Rooms.

The festival will also include BBC Foreign Correspondent Martin Bell reading the Inaugural Wilfred Owen Lecture.

The lecture has been instigated in honour of the WWI poet, who inspired festival director John Waine to found Oswestry LitFest in 2010.

Mr Waine said: "Martin Bell's long and highly distinguished broadcasting career covering conflicts in places like Vietnam, Angola and Bosnia, allied to his ardent appreciation of Owen's writing, makes him the perfect choice to deliver the first ever Wilfred Owen Lecture.

"Martin will explore the theme of conflict and communication and how our perception of war and conflict is affected by literary, poetic and journalistic interpretation.

"It is an honour and a pleasure to be invited to deliver the very first Wilfred Owen Lecture, especially in the centenary year of the outbreak of the First World War.

The festival will run from March 14 to 24. For a full lineup visit **www.oswestrylitfest.co.uk**

The festival committee from left, John Wayne, Festival Director. Carrie Morris from Booka Book Shop. Pam Parish from Shropshire Libraries. Jules Payne, Festival PR and Heather Rodenhurst, Oswestry Team Librarian with the Festival Patron Author Frank Cottrell Boyce, right.

NEWS in brief

Hundreds of GP visits missed

A WEEK'S worth of medical appointments were missed in just three months at a GP surgery at Chirk.

Chirk Surgery had 222 missed slots between October 1 and December 31 – the equivalent of 37 hours or one full working week.

The figures have been released by Clwyd South AM Ken Skates, who is now urging patients to either keep their allotted slots or cancel in good time to avoid wasting GPs' time and costing the NHS money.

He said: "Missed appointments cost the NHS tens of million pounds a year across Britain and its hard-working, dedicated staff are under enough pressure as it is without having their time wasted."

The partners at Chirk Surgery were unavailable for comment.

Children urged to get active at club

PRE-SCHOOL children are invited to get active with Gym-minis Activity Club in Oswestry.

The club meets at Oswestry Leisure Centre on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10.30am to 11.10am and helps develop agility, balance and coordination.

Spaces are limited. Contact Wendy Strefford on (01691) 671244 or 07843 126636 for more information.

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NEWS in brief

Last chance to take part in event

ARTISTS from the Welshpool area have until Saturday to take part in Powys Arts Month.

And there is also the chance to be considered for one of three commissions. Powys Arts Forum have joined forces with the Hay Festival, the Machynlleth Comedy Festival and Oriel Davies Gallery in Newtown to offer a national platform for Powys-based artists.

Commissioned artists will be challenged to create an innovative and exciting work for an outdoor space. Contact Sarah Morton through **pam@powysartsforum.org.uk**

Coach laid on for Six Nations clash

A BUS firm is laying on a coach for the big Wales-Italy rugby international in Cardiff on Saturday.

Rugby fans wishing to make the trip to the Millenium Stadium can travel with Rhiew Valley Motors of Berriew. The coach will leave Welshpool's Church Street Car Park (Spar) at 8am in the morning and will pick up on-route to the capital.

To book your seat call (01686) 640554.

Council surgeries

WELSHPOOL Town Council surgeries for 2014 have been set for third Tuesday in each month except August and December at the town clerk's office from 5pm to 7pm.

Sample traditional flavour of the continent at market

WELSHPOOL town centre will be playing host to the Traditional European Food and Craft Fair again, when it returns on March 28.

Market traders from the Continent are hoping to build on the success of their previous.

Organiser Olivier Simonin said: "We have new professional continental market traders from France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Holland, Poland and many more countries.

"They will be wearing traditional costumes, selling high-quality products including Brittany biscuits, olives, Italian nougat, cheeses, sausages, fresh bread, and croissants.

"This year, we have some new exciting stalls. There will be German salami, Finnish crafts, Peruvian handicrafts, Italian macaroons and Paris handbags.

by Graham Breeze

"As well as delectable tasty goods, you will also be able to choose from a wide range of products including handbags and leather items, Marseille soaps, lavender, children's toys and pashminas."

Most of the products on sale will come from each stallholder's region, where they are produced by family businesses, farms or small factories using traditional methods,

Flavour

Providing a true flavour of the continent, the traders will wear their historic traditional local costumes, and will decorate their stalls to represent the region of the country they come from.

The Continental market company has been running its events in the UK for 10 years and in Scandinavia for five.

And Mr Simonin said the March market will provide local businesses with a boost.

"We have found that when local businesses become involved everybody profits," he said. "On numerous occasions shops in the immediate vicinity have requested the rapid return of the Traditional Market."

Welshpool Town Council has been working closely with the organisers to bring the Continental market to the town and is looking at holding more throughout the year.

For more details visit either **www.traditionalmarket.co.uk** or **www.facebook.com/traditionalmarket**

Canal focus for triathlon

ENTRY forms for the third Montgomery Canal Triathlon are now available.

Competitors will use the 35-mile canal and towpath in one day by cycling from Newtown to Welshpool, canoeing from Welshpool to Llanymynech and walking or running the last section from Llanymynech to Frankton Locks on May 10.

You can complete one or two sections or attempt all three in the event organised by the Friends of the Montgomery Canal.

Further details are available from Peter Richards on (01691) 831455 and entry forms are available from **http://www.montgomerycanal.co.uk/**

Other events planned include a St David's Day walk on March 1 with local historian David Pugh.

On March 7 a fundraising concert for Maesbury Canal Festival will be held at Llandrinio. The free admission festival is held biannually and this year will be over the weekend September 6 and 7.

Band's song on rugby DVD

Colour Sunday's song is featured on an official Welsh Rugby Union DVD.

A WELSHPOOL band has seen a resurgence in interest in its music after it was used in an official Welsh Rugby Union DVD.

The Best Welsh Tries of 2013 includes the song, *Where Ever You Call Home* by Colour Sunday, which was written by its guitarist Rob Picken.

Such has been the interest in the track that thrilled band members say they are now hoping to organise a reunion gig.

The DVD was launched to coincide with the Six Nations competition which sees Wales take on Italy this weekend.

Colour Sunday was formed by Rob, his cousin and bass player, Ben Picken, lead singer Tom Carter and drummer, Aled Lloyd, all old Welshpool High School pupils.

They went off to university but, with jobs and family commitments, haven't played together for two years.

Rob, 28, who has moved back to the Welshpool area and plays rugby for the town side, said the inclusion of the track on the DVD had been a wonderful shock.

"We haven't played together for two years. but now we are talking about a reunion gig, possibly sometime in March," he said. The song and video are on YouTube.

Painting classes on offer at Loft

TWO new practical painting courses will be starting at The Loft, Coed-y-Dinas, in Welshpool this spring and will include visits to local areas of interest.

A five-session Drawing and Painting the Landscape course will start on Wednesday, February 12 from 10am to 3pm.

Throughout the Painting Gardens course there will be visits to some of the most beautiful gardens in the area including Powis Castle, The Dingle and Glansevern. Back at the loft a wide range of mixed media techniques will be experimented with for capturing colour, light, form and texture.

This eight session course starts on Wednesday, April 2 from 10am to 4pm.

Both courses will be taught by professional artist and teacher Tereska Shepherd.

Advanced booking is recommended – contact 01970 621580. or **learning@aber.ac.uk**

Concert tickets

TICKETS have gone on sale for Welshpool fundraising group for Marie Curie Cancer Care concert with Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir. The event takes place at St Mary's Parish Church on June 14 and tickets are available from Flaunt It.

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Plan for huge farm on hold after campaign

by Graham Breeze

A WELSHPOOL farmer's plan to build a 1,000-cow dairy has been put on hold after an animal welfare group was granted a High Court judicial review.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has been given the go-ahead for judges to review the Welsh government's decision to allow the dairy at Leighton, near Welshpool.

Earlier in the week Torchwood actor Gareth David-Lloyd announced he had joined the campaign against the super farm.

He said: "I've signed the WSPA petition because I want to defend the Welsh countryside and cows from the damage these factory dairy farms can do."

In October, Planning Minister Carl Sargeant decided the proposed dairy at Lower Leighton Farm next to a school should be allowed to proceed despite a public inquiry inspector recommending refusal.

Mr Sargeant said the economic benefits outweighed other considerations.

Simon Pope, WSPA UK Director for Campaigns and Communications confirmed it will be challenging Mr Sargeant's decision in the High Court later this year.

He added: "Our case challenges the decision-making process that led to the granting of the application and the implications we believe the building of the industrial dairy farm would hold for the future of dairy farming, not just in Wales, but throughout Britain.

Torchwood star Gareth David-Lloyd

"This battle is not and never has been about one farmer.

"Farmers should continue to be championed as the custodians of our natural environment. As such, WSPA considers our actions to be in the public interest."

A public inquiry was held about the plans for the dairy in March 2013.

Charities urged to bag share of cashpot

CHARITIES and community groups in the Welshpool area are being invited to cash in on the cost of carrier bags in Wales by applying for a grant of up to £500.

The Welsh Community Grant Fund is the result of reinvesting charges made for carrier bags to online shoppers.

All shops in Wales have had to charge for carrier bags since October 2011.

Staff at Sainsbury's in Welshpool are now encouraging groups to apply for funding to support activities which involve families, children, health, environment and welfare.

Stephi Brett, Sainsbury's community affairs manager, said: "Since the charge was introduced our Welsh customers that order through online delivery have been charged 40p as a flat rate for bags. Since then it's accumulated £53,9792 which will be put into projects in Powys and across Wales.

"From the success of Sainsbury's local charity partnership, where each store chooses a local charity to work with each year, we've seen the positive impact we can have on our local communities.

"We hope the Welsh Community Grant Fund has a similar impact."

To apply visit **www.ccworks.co.uk/sainsburys** before February 28.

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NEWS

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Hospital order for man who shot two geese in village

A MAN who shot two geese and put villagers in fear for their safety has been made the subject of a hospital order.

Paul Carruthers, who believed he had issues with some of his neighbours at Trefonen, had armed himself with a shotgun in May last year.

At Shrewsbury Crown Court last Thursday Judge Peter Barrie told Carruthers he had been involved in "very dangerous incidents".

"It was only by good fortune that no-one was seriously injured," he said. Imposing the hospital order under Section 37 of the Mental Health Act, Judge Barrie said he had read a number of psychiatric reports and a history of events and was satisfied Carruthers had been suffering a serious mental illness at the time of the offences.

by Graham Breeze

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, said the defendant had believed, or perceived, that he had problems with his neighbours, but nothing that led to the level of violence Carruthers engaged upon.

Destroyed

He said the defendant was seen by Vincent Hunt, a local councillor, from a bedroom window after shots were heard around 6.30am on May 3. Ornaments were destroyed and words exchanged.

After Carruthers moved away another shot was heard before police arrived.

He said Mr Hunt had found the two dead geese the night before and Carruthers later told police that he was responsible.

At an earlier hearing Carruthers pleaded guilty to being in possession of a shotgun with the intention of causing Vincent Hunt to fear he was in danger of unlawful violence and three charges of causing damage or destroying property.

He had denied possessing a shotgun causing Howard Long to fear he was in danger of unlawful violence and the charge was ordered to lie on the file.

Mr Dean Easthope, for Carruthers, said Carruthers' mental condition had deteriorated because financial difficulties following the death of his father.

Ideas are wanted for museum's timeline

PEOPLE in Oswestry are being urged to get their thinking caps on and come up with ideas for what should be included in the town museum's timeline for last year.

Trustees at the museum are updating the timeline, which records significant events in the history and life of Oswestry.

David Adams, a museum trustee, said: "Anything which happened in 2013 and people think should be recorded on our museum timeline will be considered.

"The timeline a permanent feature in the museum and has proved popular for visitors."

Mr Adams said ideas should be e-mailed to him at **info@oswestrytownmuseum.co.uk**

The museum welcomed its 10,000th visitor over the Christmas period, having only opened on March 1, 2012.

Library's hours to be reduced

THE opening hours of Chirk Library are to be significantly reduced because of council cuts.

Councillors in Chirk said although the reduced hours at the town's library was unfortunate, they were relieved that it was safe from closure for the moment.

Libraries in Brymbo and Gresford are to likely to shut while all others will have its opening hours reduced by an average of 19 per cent.

Councillor Terry Evans, one of Chirk's borough councillors, said council chiefs were facing tough decisions. He said: "It is unfortunate to cut the hours at the libraries but at least Chirk is still staying open at the moment.

"They are talking about cuts of about £13 million or £14 million a year and that is unprecedented."

The cut comes less than two years after Chirk Library underwent a £120,000 refit, paid for by the WAG and other sources.

Orchard expert to hold course

ORCHARD expert Tom Adams will be running a fruit tree planting and management course in Oswestry on February 15.

The course will run from 10am to 3pm at the Cambrian Railway Orchard on Gobowen Road.

RJAH staff to run marathon

Hattie Page and Curtis Langley, are running the 2014 London Marathon for the Bone Cancer Centre Appeal.

TWO members of staff at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have stepped up to the challenge of running the 2014 Virgin London Marathon to raise funds for the Oswestry Bone Cancer Centre Appeal.

Curtis Langley, 24, is a physiotherapy assistant in Outpatients and Rheumatology, who has worked at the hospital for the last five years and lives in St Martins. He enjoys sport, particularly football, badminton and running while graduate Hattie Page, 22, joined the trust in September on an internship as a marketing co-ordinator.

Curtis, who has been training and fundraising for the marathon since late November, said: "I did the Lake Vyrnwy half marathon four times, so decided is was time to make that step up."

Donate via **www.justgiving.com/Curtis-Langley-Marathon**

Hattie, whose page is **www.justgiving.com/Harriette-Page** said: "I decided to step up after I ran the Shrewsbury Half Marathon last summer."

Literary themed meeting for club

BORDERLAND Rotary club had a literature-themed meeting last week when they welcomed John Waine, director of Oswestry LitFest, as guest speaker.

The festival, which was inspired by the history of First World War poet Wilfred Owen and his strong family ties to Oswestry, was launched this week with the announcement of new patron, Frank Cottrell Boyce.

Club members enjoyed hearing the plans for this year's festival, which will include authors, songwriters and performers from around the country.

Borderland Rotary meets on Wednesdays at 7.30pm at the Sweeney Hall Hotel, Oswestry.

For more details, visit **www.borderlandrotary.co.uk**

Tower organist to play in town

AN organist of the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool will be performing in Oswestry in March.

John Bowdler will play at the Marches School in Oswestry on March 7 from 7.30 to 11pm. The evening, organised by Betty Bromley, for the British Heart Foundation. Tickets are £7 from (01691) 653493.

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PENKRIDGE TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT 01691 668094

Skills training from expert team

Advertisement feature

IN AN industry that is full of legislation and regulation, it is difficult to find qualified and experienced assistance to help through the jungle of undertakings and laws.

It was with this in mind that Paul Duncan, the managing director of Penkridge Transport Management decided that it was time that he put to good use the experience and contacts that he had gained throughout the freight and passenger industries.

After being involved with clients and colleagues whilst working with other organisations, Paul was constantly being approached or being asked for guidance on matters of legal compliance.

It soon became apparent that his time would be better spent concentrating on assistance rather than on the sidelines.

In August 2012, Paul saw at first hand the effects of legislation and regulation when he was involved in an investigation that proved to be the start of what was needed to keep a fleet of vehicles completely compliant and legal.

Focus

This journey took him through the whole process of investigation and representation where his focus was squarely on the needs of the operator and the law in unison.

That November, after much discussion with his family and industry colleagues, the decision was made to establish Penkridge Transport Management Limited giving all operators the chance to understand the undertakings that they had signed for in their operator licence applications.

The start-up was boosted by keeping the process simple and the overheads low by working from the family home in the beginning until it became apparent that there was a greater need than first thought.

With legislative deadline in respect of the new drivers' qualifications looming, Paul made the decision that the operation could no longer be best served from the his spare room.

The need to establish a more permanent base took shape in the form of the current office space at the Ellesmere Business Park. It was at this point that an opportunity arose in the form of an approach from Coatia, a EU member state, to assist with the on-going ascension in to the European Union.

This has taken the business in an exciting direction and is recognition for all the hard work of years gone by.

Croatia, as part of the EU, has the same requirements as any other member state to comply with in regards to transport. With the background in Europe, Penkridge is securely placed to provide such assistance with language and experience in the Balkan region as Paul was once resident in this troubled area and grew to understand the culture and the needs of countries there.

In 2014 there will be various changes to the transport industry and the requirements that they have to comply with.

Compliance includes Driver CPC, the lack of trained driving and operation staff, and on-going need for operational support. This, coupled with other countries making applications for EU membership, has given Penkridge the opportunity to focus in areas where they can be the most effective and provide the assistance needed.

Penkridge adapt their courses to clients and their needs, using the Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic (VAK) principle, which looks into how we receive, process and impart information.

They fully understand that not everybody's learning preferences are the same and strive to offer courses that are fully engaging to everyone.

Penkridge Transport Management has fast become a tight knit organisation with a high professional standard.

They pride themselves with complete attention to the issues at hand and the knowledge of full compliance to keep businesses safe and profitable.

Penkridge Group – from left Rhiannan Williams, Paul Duncan, Craig Brocklesby, Wayne Pope, Jennifer Andrews and Sophie Egan.

Staff at Penkridge Transport Management can help out with new legislation.

NEWS in brief

Hobbit film shown at the Guildhall

PART two of *The Hobbit* Trilogy, *The Desolation of Smaug*, will be shown in Oswestry next month

The screenings will take place next month at the Attfield Theatre, Oswestry Guildhall, Bailey Head.

There will be 3D showings on Saturday, February 1, at 7pm and February 12 at noon, while 2D showings will be on February 5 at noon and February 8 at 7pm.

Tickets are £6 for adults and £4 for under-16s, and the film is rated 12A. Call the box office on 0845 2500517.

Intern Hannah joins the team

WELSH Premier Champions The New Saints have recently appointed Hannah Drakeley from Llangollen on a three month internship, as part of the league's partnership with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).

"We are really excited about our new appointment," said chief operating officer and general manager Ian Williams. "The internship will allow Hannah to learn various aspects of our business."

Gallery events

THE Willow Gallery in Oswestry has launched its spring and summer programme. For details call the gallery, in Willow Street on (01691) 657575.

Council under pressure in setting new budgets

TOWN and parish councils across Shropshire are under huge pressure as they set their budgets amid new rules over their funding, a meeting was warned.

The clerk to Oswestry Town Council has admitted that the 2014/2015 estimates has been the most difficult in the life of the council to prepare with the authority fearing a loss of £45,000 funding each year.

by Sue Austin

And he warned councillors that parish and town councils were no longer masters of their own destiny.

Government changes to local authority funding have recently come into play with changes to the way town and parish councils obtain funding.

The clerk, David Preston, told Oswestry town council's budget meeting that they could no longer use their democratic mandate and understanding of local needs to levy a precept to provide the resources to be local community leaders.

"For centuries, parish and town councils have been built on the pillars of democratic accountability with the ability to raise their own finance – creating financial independence and being independent of other parts of local government.

"But now a grant is passed to a principal authority from government who is then supposed to pass it on to parishes if they so wish," he said.

"In the next financial year the government is providing funding of £3.3 billion to billing authorities which they expect to be passed on to parishes. The majority are doing so in full or part but for future funding rounds this is not ring-fenced and the loss of some £45,000 on an annual basis is going to be an extremely difficult pill for Oswestry Town Council to swallow.

"The golden thread of parish financing – over a century old – was broken with the introduction of localised council tax support schemes and parish and town councils are no longer masters of their own destiny.

"There is an expectation on this town council, and other market town councils across the country, to do more for less. This council has accepted and is dealing with the challenges with an action plan that will look at what we do, why we do it and what resources are needed."

Mayor in hotseat at college question time

Oswestry mayor Chris Schofield talks politics with students Matt Nipper and Shannon Jenkins.

IT was question time at Walford and North Shropshire College – with the mayor of Oswestry in the hotseat.

Councillor Chris Schofield was invited to the Oswestry campus to talk to politics students and issues such as the town's new cinema were high on the agenda. He said the visit gave him an insight into the views and priorities of young people of the area.

"It was a very interesting question and answer session and I was delighted to go along," he said. "After all, it is the young people that we want to attract into politics."

He said he was worried that many of them felt that young people were a forgotten generation. "I told them to not give up hope and to go out and look for jobs and make careers for themselves."

The mayor said the students were keen to see Oswestry's new cinema opening on the planned retail park by the Smithfield Livestock market.

"Councillor Schofield also urged the students to ensure they used their votes from the age of 18 onwards.

"I told them that too many people had died for their right to vote for them to throw it away."

Ways are listed on new trail website

THEY are among the jewels of Shropshire and Mid Wales – and now thousands of extra visitors are expected to descend on Offa's Dyke and Glyndwr's Way after they were included in a prestigious guide.

The two long-distance footpaths feature among 15 walks highlighted on a new National Trails website.

Detailed maps of Offa's Dyke Path, which follows the Welsh border through parts of Shropshire, and Glyndwr's Way, which runs from Welshpool to Knighton, via Machynlleth, have been put on the site – **www.nationaltrail.co.uk**

Website organiser Anne Clark said she expected the region to reap the benefits as the National Trust has more than four million members.

She said: "We're really excited to have the responsibility for promoting National Trails. They are the best trails in the country and we want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy them. The new website is just the start of our work to raise awareness of these fabulous trails, and the amazing landscapes they pass through, of which Offa's Dyke and Glyndwr's Way are among the best."

People can upload content including photographs and reviews, plus details of visitor events.

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Thank you to all our readers and advertisers who have supported the Oswestry & Border Chronicle Keeping Oswestry Alive Campaign.

Launched in August 2013 the Oswestry Chronicle launched the campaign to provide a network of life saving defibrillators located in strategic areas across Oswestry.

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Please check the Oswestry Chronicle and our Facebook and Twitter pages for details of our campaign during 2014.

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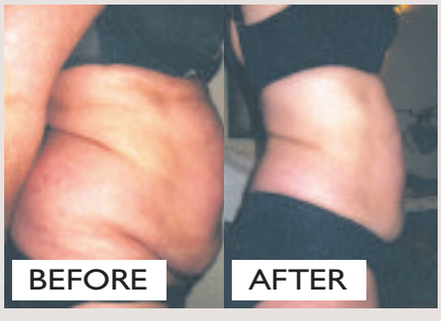

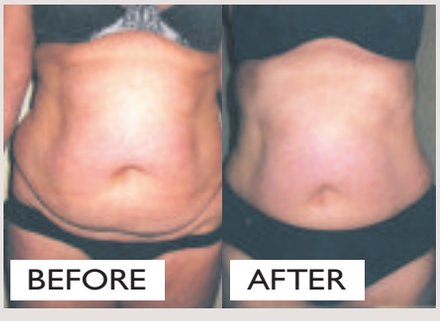

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VALENTINE'S DAY 01691 668094

Savour the romance with dinner for two

Dine out on the year's most romantic evening – St Valentine's Day, February 14.

THAT time of year when love is in the air is approaching.

St Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14 every year when people show their love and affection for one another with cards, flowers, chocolates and other gifts. And traditionally on Valentine's Day in a leap year women can propose marriage.

The day gets its name from a famous saint, but who was St Valentine?

The popular belief is that St Valentine was a Roman priest in the third century. Emperor Claudius II had banned marriage for soldiers because

Advertisement feature

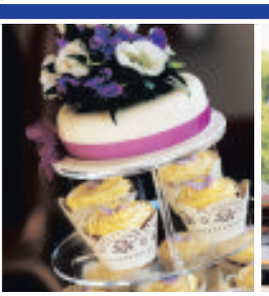
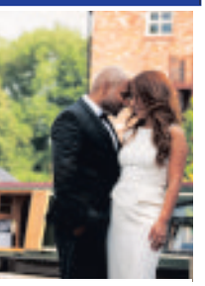
he thought married men made bad soldiers. Valentine felt this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret.

When Claudius found out, Valentine was thrown into jail and sentenced to death. There, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and when he was taken to be killed on February 14 he sent her a love letter signed "from your Valentine".

Valentine's Day itself is thought to have sprung from the Roman festival of Lupercalia in mid-February, officially the start of their springtime. As part of the celebrations boys drew names of girls from a box. They would be boyfriend and girlfriend during the festival. Sometimes they'd marry.

Later on, the church wanted to turn this festival into a Christian celebration and decided to use it to remember St Valentine too. Gradually, St Valentine's name started to be used by people to express their love.

Whatever the history, it's a day not to be ignored and today it's fashionable to dine out with your loved one as well as lavishing them with presents.

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Roomy barn conversion boasts separate annexe

A three-bedroom detached barn conversion with a many original features and a detached annexe, Golfa Isaf at Llangedwyn has landscaped gardens and parking, with potential for bed and breakfast or letting.
Having many original features, including beamed ceilings and walls, it is for sale through Town & Country at a guide price of £399,950 with no chain.
It has an oak door leading into the lounge with multi-fuel stove and door to the garden, a utility room, fully tiled shower cubicle with Galaxy Aqua 3000 shower, and a dining room with two pairs of double doors to a seating area and further double opening doors leading out to a balcony area.
The spacious kitchen/breakfast room includes a built-in dishwasher and range cooker with extractor hood over.
There is also an inner landing and a galleried landing. The master bedroom is spacious and offers lovely rural views.
The detached annexe has a lounge with multi-fuel stove, a kitchen/diner, bedroom, shower room and a garden area.
The garden to the main property is well stocked with specimen shrubs and plants. A gravelled pathway runs along the front of the house and a step leads up to the decked patio located off the dining room.
For further information contact Town & Country on 01691 679631or visit the website www.townandcountryoswestry.com

Character cottage in village centre has been revamped

A charming, much improved semi-detached double fronted cottage is on sale with Parry Lowarch. Plas Thomas, off Station Road, in the centre of Whittington, offers spacious accommodation comprising an entrance hall, large sitting room, kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms and a recently fitted family bathroom.
The property includes gas-fired central heating, wood framed double glazing, off street parking for up to four cars and secluded courtyard gardens.
Parry Lowarch are seeking offers around £159,950. Call them on 01743 343343 or visit www.parrylowarch.co.uk to find out more.

Offers invited on beautifully presented family property

An early viewing is recommended at 20 Ifton Fields, St Martins, a well appointed mid terraced home with excellent accommodation.
The two-bedroom property is priced at offers over £112,000.
It has an entrance hall, living room with feature fireplace, kitchen/dining room, attractive refitted bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing where stated, driveway and a neatly landscaped rear garden.
Call Richmond Harvey on 01691 654222 to find out more.

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RICS

NEW - NO CHAIN

Maes Beuno Berriew £119,995

- Deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom End-Terrace set in a large corner plot
- Requires some modernisation, views over the Shropshire Union Canal
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen
- Utility, Storage Shed, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- uPVC double glazing throughout. EPC Rating

NEW

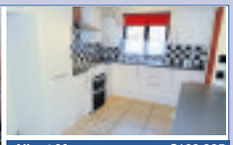
Oak Drive Oswestry £249,995

- Superb 4 Bed Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility, Cloakroom
- 4 Beds, En-Suite, Family Bathroom
- Ample Off-Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, EPC Rating

NEW - PROPERTY WITH LAND

Cross Lanes St Martins £325,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a residential smallholding comprising of a 3/4 bedroom cottage
- Stables and outbuildings all standing in around 1.14 acres of gardens and paddocks
- The property is situated in an excellent rural location yet within walking distance of the centre of the popular village of St Martins
- Kitchen gardens, paddocks, stables, garages and outbuildings which have a host of future uses



NEW - NO CHAIN

Albert Mews Oswestry £109,995

- Well appointed & well maintained 2 Bedroom End Terrace
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Living Room, Cloaks
- 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom. Gas central heating, double glazing
- Lawned garden with a paved patio to the rear
- The front garden is laid to gravel for ease of maintenance
- Off-road parking for 2 vehicles. EPC Rating

NEW

Park Terrace Oswestry £99,995

- Deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace property in an excellent location
- Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Gas fired central heating & timber D/G windows. EPC Rating
- Front garden with decked seating area & 2 good size storage sheds to rear
- Should be of interest to 1st time buyers & investor purchasers

NEW

Cae Onan Morda £206,995

- A spacious and well appointed 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloak Room
- 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Good size rear garden, integral garage & ample off-road parking
- Gas C/H, and uPVC double glazing throughout. EPC Rating C

NO CHAIN

Berwyn Villas Oswestry £99,995

- A well presented end-of-terrace cottage style property
- Oak stripped flooring to the hall, lounge and dining room
- Entrance Hall, Through Lounge, Dining Area, Kitchen

2 Excellent Bedrooms, Bathroom

- Off-street parking and good size south facing rear garden
- Double glazing gas fired central heatingEPC Rating E

NO CHAIN

Hammonds Place Gobowen £99,995

- A spacious 2 Bedroom End-Terrace Property situated in a popular residential area in the village of Gobowen.
- The property has the advantage of a large plot with a concrete driveway to the fore providing ample off-road parking
- Lounge, Conservatory and Kitchen on the ground floor and 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom on the first floor
- Outside the property has a large brick storage building and adjoining open fronted storage shed together with a private rear garden
- uPVC double glazing windows throughout and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

NO CHAIN

West Place Gobowen £102,500

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Mid-Terrace Property situated within an established residential area in the popular village of Gobowen
- Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge/Dining Room, Conservatory, 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Ample off-road parking and large rear garden
- Gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing throughout. EPC Rating D
- The property should be of interest to first time purchasers or investment buyers

Cabin Lane Oswestry £164,950

- A well located and comfortably appointed Detached House
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Sitting Room, Separate Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility Room, 3 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room. Gas C/H, single garage
- Ample parking space to the fore
- Large lawned garden to the rear
- EPC Rating D

Llynclys Oswestrty £175,000

- A most delightful Detached Country Cottage
- Sitting Rm, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm
- Rear Lobby and Store Room/Utility Rm
- Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Majority double glazing, Oil C/H. EPC Rating F
- Delightful gardens surrounding the property
- Store sheds & garaging, parking

NO CHAIN

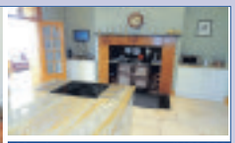
Llanforda Rise Oswestry £214,995

- A most spacious and comfortably appointed Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Ent Porch, Entrance Hall, Large Sitting Rm, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm
- 2 Ground Floor Bedrooms or one bedroom and a Dining rm
- Box Room, 2 Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom & Separate WC
- Delightful lawned gardens to fore & rear, parking and garage
- D/G, Oil C/H. EPC Rating E

NO CHAIN

Morda Road Oswestry £625,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase an immaculately presented 6 bedroom executive family home standing within generous grounds extending to approximately 0.5 acre
- Constructed approx 10 years ago, finished to the highest of standards. With light and spacious rooms which are spread over 3 floors all accessed off a glazed atrium at the heart of the property
- Landscaped gardens with large terrace area to rear, gated driveway providing security & off road parking, large Dble Garage & Log Cabin. EPC Rating C



Morda Oswestry £450,000

- A substantial Double fronted Georgian style property retains a host of original features, has been extensively modernised by the current owners
- Recently fitted Kitchen, Drawing Rm, Study, Sun Rm, Utility Rm, Cellars, 4 large Beds, Family Bathrm & Separate Shower Rm. EPC Rating F
- Substantial stone/brick built outbuildings which could be used for a host of future uses (subject to planning consents). Further brick built Building is currently used as a Games Rm
- Standing in an elevated position overlooking landscaped gardens with views, large patio, extends to approx 0.72 acre (0.29 ha)

Watkin Drive Oswestry £395,000

- A most impressive and spacious Detached House set within an exclusive and spacious development for only five executive homes
- Reception Hall, Guest Cloaks, Sitting Rm with bay, Large Conservatory
- Separate Dining Rm, Study, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Utility
- Gallery Landing, 4 Bedrooms, Shower Rm & Luxury Family Bathrm
- Gas C/H, D/G, delightful gardens, double garage. EPC Rating D

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Pen-y-garnedd **Penyboncyn**
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OIRO £449,950

St Martins **The Old Post Office**
DETACHED HOUSE
BUILDING PLOT NOT SUBJECT TO CIL OR AHP
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £334,950

Oswestry **20 Hampton Road**
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING E
OIRO £309,950

Treflach **Plot 1 Morrin**
4 BED DET HOUSE
NEW BUILD
EN SUITE MASTER BEDROOM
EPC RATING TBC
£269,950

Four Crosses **Shaftesbury**
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
OIL CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £225,000

Oswestry **1 Old Mill Avenue**
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING C
OIRO £224,950

Llanymynech **Badgers Bend**
2 BED DET BUNGALOW
TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING E
OIRO £220,000

Oswestry **85 Cabin Lane**
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
OIRO £214,950

Oswestry **Cromer House**
4/5 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
4 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING E
OIRO £199,950

Weston Rhyn **49 Long Croft**
3/ 4 BED DET HOUSE
2/ 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING C
OIRO £189,995

Oswestry **57 Henley Drive**
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
DOWNSTAIRS W.C
EPC RATING C
OIRO £184,950

Oswestry **123 Middleton Road**
3 BED DET DORMER BUNG
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £179,950

Gobowen Oswestry34 Twmpath Lane
3 BED SEMI-DET
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
FRONT & REAR GARDENS
OIRO £177,950

Oswestry **2 Upper Well Close**
3 BED TOWN HOUSE
NO CHAIN
DOWNSTAIRS WC
EPC RATING C
OIRO £169,995

WANTED NOW!
4 BED DETACHED HOUSES
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FOR WAITING PROCEEDABLE BUYERS!
UP TO £160,000
FREE VALUATION
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Llanymynech **Larchfield**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
SUPERB VIEWS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £169,950

Oswestry **4 Blackfriars**
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
LIVING ROOM/DINER
NEWLY FITTED KITCHEN
EPC RATING D
OIRO £164,950

Oswestry **62 Whitefriars**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £157,950

Oswestry **12 Beresford Gardens**
2 BED MID TERRACE
NO CHAIN
MODERN KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING C
OIRO £154,950

WANTED NOW!
2 BED BUNGALOWS AND HOUSES
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FOR WAITING PROCEEDABLE BUYERS!
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FREE VALUATION
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FOR MORE DETAILS

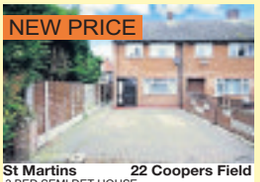
Oswestry **3 Henry Jones Road**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
CONSERVATORY
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £154,950

Oswestry **35 Gatacre Road**
3 BED MID TERRACE HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
MODERN KITCHEN
EPC RATING D
OIRO £149,950

Oswestry **41 Windsor Road**
3 BED SEMI DET BUNGALOW
KITCHEN/DINER
SHOWER ROOM
EPC RATING C
OIRO £149,950

Oswestry **10 Moors Bank**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £137,950

Oswestry **63 Smale Rise**
2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
KITCHEN/DINER
OFF ROAD PARKING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £127,950



St Martins **22 Coopers Field**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
UTILITY/STORE ROOM
FAMILY PARKING
EPC RATING E
OIRO £119,950

Oswestry **4 Powis Place**
2/3 BED MID TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
TOWN LOCATION
EPC RATING F
OIRO £104,950

Oswestry **8 Ash Road**
2 BED TERRACE
KITCHEN/DINER
NURSERY/DRESSING ROOM
EPC RATING D
OIRO £99,950

Nr Gobowen **3 Daywell Cottages**
2 BED END TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
PVC D/G
EPC RATING F
OFFERS OVER £95,000

Oswestry **9 Upper Lord Street**
2 BED END TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £84,950

Oswestry **Abraham Court**
1 BED APARTMENT
RETIREMENT PROPERTY
EPC RATING B
COMMUNAL GARDEN/LIVING ROOM
OIRO £74,950

Gobowen **1 Meadowbrook Court**
1 BED SEMI-DET BUNGALOW
LIVING/DINING ROOM
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
OFFERS OVER £69,950

LETTINGS

TREDERWEN COTTAGE, LLANSANTFFRAID. 1 BED TERRACED HOUSE ..£260 PCM
49 ALBERT ROAD, OSWESTRY. 1 BED FLAT .....£300 PCM
23 YORK STREET, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE £450 .....PCM
17 LORNE STREET, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HJOUSE .....£450 PCM
42 HEATHER CLOSE, OSWESTRY. 2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE .....£450 PCM
19 SCHOOL ROAD, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE .....£450 PCM
47 ABRAHAM COURT, OSWESTRY. 1 BED APARTMENT..... £470 PCM
19 HERITAGE WAY, LLANYMYNECH. 4 BED SEMI DET HOUSE.....£525 PCM
1 BEDFORD VILLAS, WHITTINGTON. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE .....£595 PCM

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ASSOCIATED LONDON OFFICE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE REGIONAL COVERAGE NATIONAL PRESENCE

Halls 1845

NEW NO CHAIN

Dating back to the late 1800's this three bedroom semi detached property must be viewed to be appreciated. Gas fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing.

- Entrance Porch, Reception Hall
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Rear Yard with Store
- On Street Parking
- Current EPC Rating D

Caer Road, Oswestry
Price: £99,950
Contact Oswestry

NEW

Arguably, enjoying the most imposing position within this most sought after location and situated at the head of a quiet cul de sac, set in a generous sized plot with woodland to the boundary.

Offering seven Bedrooms in total and three bathrooms.

●Must be viewed●

Woodlands Park, Oswestry
Price: £399,950
Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

A three bedroom mid terrace family home would be an ideal investment purchase. In need of some updating this property must be viewed to appreciate the potential. Gas fired central heating and double glazing.

- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Two Double Beds
- Third Bedroom, Bathroom/WC
- Outside Store, Garden
- Current EPC Rating C

Gobowen, Oswestry
Price: £99,950
Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

This two double bedroom end of terrace cottage is tucked away within this popular village, only a short walk from the bus stop and village amenities. UPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating.

- Two Reception Rooms
- Master Bedroom & Ensuite
- Bedroom Two, Shower Room
- Two Parking, Garden
- Current EPC Rating D

Vine Cottages, Weston Rhyn
Price: £135,000
Contact Oswestry

NEW

A well presented five bedroom detached family home situated in a most poplar semi rural location. This property could provide a family home with a one bedroom annex or a substantial family residence. (Lower Landing Accommodation could provide self contained accommodation (subject to permissions).

- Hall, Lounge, Conservatory
- Superb Kitchen Dining Room
- Shower Room, Bedroom One

Gibraltar Lane, Treflach
Price: £330,000
Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

Set in flat grounds extending to approximately 2.5 acres a well proportioned detached cottage property, in a delightful rural location with magnificent views of the surrounding countryside.

- Kitchen Breakfast Room
- Pantry Area, Shower Room
- Sitting Room, Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Stores/Workshops
- Various Outbuildings

Llanrhaeadr, Powys
Price: £299,950
Contact Oswestry

NEW

This 1926 former farmhouse offers spacious and adaptable accommodation.

- Lounge, Dining Room
- Cloakroom, Sitting Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Inner Hallway, Large, Pantry
- Utility/Laundry Room
- Four double Bedrooms
- Large Bathroom, Shower Room
- Garage, Parking, Gardens
- Current EPC Rating E

Llanymynech, Powys
Price: £295,000
Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

This three bedroom bungalow is situated in a most sought after residential area near to Oswestry Town centre. This property is warmed by gas fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing.

- Lounge, Kitchen Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Shower Room, Parking
- Gardens to Front, Side, Rear
- Current EPC Rating D

Hampton Close, Oswestry
Price: £249,950
Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

A two bedroom barn conversion situated in an idyllic rural location with a wealth of character features.

- Living Area, Bedroom
- Raised Dining Area
- Balcony Bedroom
- Hall, Bathroom Kitchen
- Integral Garage
- Garden, Parking

Llangedwyn, Nr Oswestry
Price: £189,950
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

This detached bungalow offers three double bedrooms, detached garage, gardens and parking and is slightly elevated to appreciate the views to the hills in the distance.

- Reception Hall, Lounge
- Kitchen Breakfast Room
- 3 Double Beds , Bathroom
- Detached Garage, Parking
- Gardens to the Front & Rear
- Current EPC Rating D

Trefonen, Oswestry
Price: £219,950
Contact Oswestry

This Georgian style family home of character situated in the picturesque Tanat Valley with paddock and outbuildings.

- 4 Bedrooms
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Detached Barn & Garage
- Approx 1 Acre
- Oil CH & DG
- Current EPC Rating E

Glanhafon Uchaf, Penybontfawr
Price: £250,000
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

A BRAND NEW detached executive family home situated in a sought after and popular residential area of Oswestry town. Within a few minutes from Oswestry Town Centre and a short drive from lovely countryside walks.

- NHBC guarantee
- Views over Oswestry Town
- Three Reception Rooms,

Mount Rise, Oswestry
Price: £399,950
Contact Oswestry

A most well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a cul-de-sac position in the popular village of Gobowen.

- 3 Bedroom (Master En-Suite)
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Parking For 3 Vehicles
- Current EPC Rating C

Trinity Close, Gobowen
Price: £149,950
Contact Oswestry

A charming, distinctive and unique detached cottage offering immaculately presented accommodation benefiting from panoramic views of the Tanat Valley and surrounding countryside.

- 2/3 Bedrooms
- Master & En-Suite
- Workshop, Car Port, Parking
- Unspoilt Picturesque Location
- Current EPC Rating F

Castell Cottage, Llanrhaeadr
Price: Offers in Region of £220,000
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

This detached cottage sits centrally within this popular hamlet, ideal for those with outdoor interests such as walking and cycling.

- 2 Double Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Garage & Parking
- Current EPC Rating F

Ty Canol, Tregeriog
Price: £175,000
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

This detached country style cottage dates back to the 1800's and benefits from panoramic views across the Shropshire and Cheshire Plains

- Located Down A Quiet Country Lane
- Generous Sized Cottage Gardens
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Double Garage & Parking
- Viewing Advised
- Current EPC Rating D

Robins Corner, Tedsmore
Price: £325,000
Contact Oswestry

A fine family home set in gardens and grounds of approximately 2 acres. This property is in excellent decorative order.

- 5 Bedrooms (2 With En-Suites)
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Games Room & Shower Room (Ideal Annex)
- Gardens & Paddock
- Field Shelter & Storage
- Current EPC Rating D

Bron Awel, Maesbrook
Price: Offers over £425,000
Contact Oswestry

This delightful detached 1960's spacious bungalow is situated in an pleasant elevated location with views of the open countryside.

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Popular Hamlet Location
- Garage & Ample Parking
- Gardens & 2 Ponds
- Current EPC Rating D

Derwen Deg, Chirk Bank
Price: £239,950
Contact Oswestry

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For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends
Saturday Night Theatre from £149.95

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Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £199.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.*

Single room supplements apply.

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items for sale

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KITCHEN WORKTOP Still wrapped, plus many off cuts, £40, 01691 658496

LIGHTWEIGHT Wheel chair, £75, Telephone Oswestry 01691 657846

MOBILITY WALKING FRAME With wheels, brand new, cost £100 sell £50, 07814 538207

PINE TABLE Round, very solid, in good condition, £40, Oswestry 01691 656294

PORTA LOO White Thetford 365, still boxed excellent condition, ideal caravan/home, £30, 01691 659204

SCOOTER BARS In new condition £40, Telephone 01691 661690

SLAM STUNT Scooter, brand new condition, £45, 01691 661690

STOVES GAS COOKER In good working order white with glass lid in clean condition, £95, 01691 655857

YORK MULTIGYM Hardly used, fully assembled, £170, buyer collects Oswestry 07843 479618

ADVERTISEMENTS
CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

1. **Midland News Association Limited** All publications in this group are published by the Midland News Association Limited, registered office Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES ('the Company') and this is the address to which any notices should be sent.
2. **Acceptance** The Company will only accept advertising on these standard terms and no other contract terms or conditions will apply other than those which are implied by statute and cannot lawfully be excluded. In particular the Company will not accept advertising on the basis of advertiser's terms and conditions.
3. **Content of Advertisements** All advertisements must be legal decent honest and truthful. Advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Standards Authority. Advertisements must comply with the requirements of all current legislation including but not limited to the following:- All advertisements must clearly differentiate between trade and private advertising as required by the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must comply with the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980.
   All descriptions of goods must be accurate and in no way infringe the provisions of the Trades Descriptions Act 1968.
   Advertisements must not contain any material which is defamatory. You must have permission to use any material contained in your advertisement and must not infringe the copyright moral rights or any other right of any third party.
   The Company reserves the right to refuse to carry any advertisement or to require amendment of any advertisement in its absolute discretion.
4. **Appearance of Advertisements** Whilst the Company makes every effort to comply with requests, publication on a particular date or in a particular position cannot be guaranteed. The Company reserves the right to alter, suspend, cancel or reject an advertisement at its discretion even after the same has been accepted for publication without being liable to compensate you. You will not be charged for any advertisement which does not appear. If only a part of a series of advertisements appears you will only be charged for the advertisements in the series which actually appear. The Company does not guarantee the publication or extent of supporting editorial and your obligation to pay for advertising will not under any circumstances be dependent upon the appearance or content of editorial. No liability will be accepted for non-appearance of editorial. The Company does not guarantee that advertising will not appear for similar or the same subject matter to your advertisement and no liability shall be accepted as a result of such advertising appearing. It is the advertiser's responsibility to provide any amended copy, whether by electronic or other format, and the Company does not guarantee that it will be able to or will agree to modify, amend or alter any file or copy supplied to it.
5. **Liability The Company's** liability for any loss or damage caused by any error or omission in the advertisement or any other breach of contract shall not in any circumstances exceed a full refund of any price paid by the advertiser to the Company for the publication of the advertisement or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of the same type as that which originally appeared. Where a series of advertisements is booked the Company's liability shall not in any circumstances exceed the value of the first advertisement in the series. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the publication of the advertisement the Company will either re-publish the advertisement or the relevant parts of the advertisement or make a reasonable refund of or adjustment to the cost of the advertisement. If the error does not materially detract from the advertisement then no re-publication, refund or adjustment will be made. It is the advertiser's responsibility to check the content of advertisements and the Company will not accept any liability for loss or damage, or obligation to republish or make a refund or adjustment, arising from re-publication of an advertisement containing an error, misprint or omission which has not been identified by the advertiser after first publication.
6. **Box numbers The Company** accepts no liability for loss or damage caused by delay in forwarding or omission to forward to the advertiser replies to Box Numbers. Box Numbers must not be used for sending goods, distributing circulars or communications from agents. The Company reserves the right to open and inspect all replies to Box Number and to destroy goods, circulars of communications from agents which are discovered during an inspection.
7. **Inspection The Company** shall be entitled at any time to inspect any goods or services advertised and may decline to carry further advertising if such inspection is not permitted or if in the Company's opinion the provision of further advertising facilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.
8. **Indemnity** The advertiser, including any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement, warrants that it has permission to use for publication by electronic and printed means all material which is included in the advertisement. The advertiser and any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement agree to indemnify the Company in respect of all charges, costs, claims or damage arising out of the publication of the advertisement, whether the same result from actual or threatened legal action or from some other cause.
9. **Cancellation** On a request for cancellation or amendment of a classified advertisement being accepted, you will be given a cancellation or amendment number which must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence. Payment of the originally agreed price will be required in full for any advertisement in relation to which the advertiser is unable to supply a valid cancellation or amendment number. Cancellation can only be accepted if the Company is notified of the cancellation by no later than the following deadlines:-
   Lineage, Semi Display - By no later than 6.30pm on the working day prior to publication. Advertisements to appear on Monday must be cancelled by 10 am on the preceding Saturday
   Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication
   Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication
   To cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please telephone 01902 317878. To cancel Colour/Features advertisements please speak to the Representative through whom the advertisement was booked.
10. **Rates** Advertising rates are as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.
    All gross advertising rates except classified lineage and semi-display are subject to a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance levy payable by advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
11. **Payment** The Company reserves the right to require pre-payment as a condition of any advertisement being published. Where pre-payment is not required unless different credit terms have been agreed with the advertiser in writing payment must be made within 14 days of the date of issue of the Company's invoice. An additional £2.00 booking charge will be payable if the invoice is not paid in full within this 14 day period.
    Any additional credit facilities which are offered are at the Company's absolute discretion. The advertiser's liability shall be for the full amount of all advertising ordered and shall not be limited to the amount of any credit limit which the Company may impose.
    Payment may be made by [method] cash, cheque or credit/debit card. The advertiser's obligation to pay for other items on an account shall not be affected by the existence of any query over an individual item within that account.
12. **Data Protection Act** The advertiser's details will be retained by the Company for the purposes of administering our accounts records and so that the Company may notify the advertiser of future advertising opportunities which may be of interest to you. By placing advertising with the Company the advertiser agrees to your details being used for this purpose.
13. **Applicable Law** These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

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to discuss the post please call Sue Frankfort on 01743 344010

Closing date for application 9.00 am on Monday 3rd February 2014

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The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its students and expects its staff to share this commitment. Applicants must be prepared to undergo Child Protection Screening, including checks with past employers and DBS. References will be sought and verified at the short-listing stage as part of our safeguarding children procedures.

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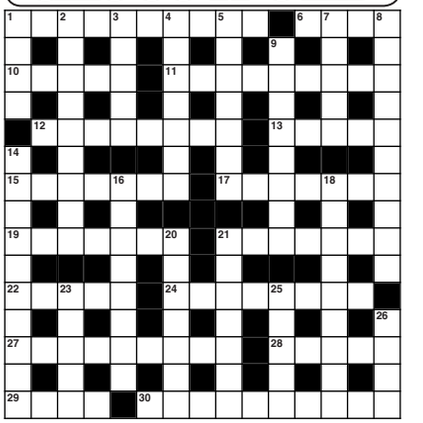

Compiled by Roger F. Squires

ACROSS

1 A vehicle drawn up in accordance with the law (10)
6 He's not a striking example of comradeship (4)
10 I'd returned with spirit to prepare a defensive position (3,2)
11 Fish gone astray in the fisherman's basket (6,3)
12 Sort of job many want, though possibly insecure (8)
13 Point to organist's control in bar (5)
15 A recent reform put through again (2-5)
17 Headgear that's involving work (3,4)
19 Many felt irritated and abandoned (7)
21 Kind of seaside complaint (7)
22 Become fifty and complain (5)
24 Pot smokers? (8)
27 Reserved, but singularly partisan (2,3,4)
28 Being stupid I upset Anne (5)
29 Fitting encounter (4)
30 It's present in a constantly recurring form (10)

DOWN

1 Set of rules not easy to break (4)
2 Has a fresh egg in Lent, regardless (9)
3 Irene ruined him (5)
4 Tale a hundred tell (7)
5 Voting against, told to go and vote for (7)
7 He may be found in a wrongful act (5)
8 He will stick at his job (10)
9 Respect I possibly show those that have paid (8)
14 Two who marry become one (10)
16 Heroic Greek units holding an elevated position (8)
18 Whatever happens, it implies no speed restriction (2,3,4)
20 Refuse to recite all the cases (7)
21 Motoring clubs? (7)
23 Sea air adds a little weight to one (5)
25 They have to be driven home (5)
26 Its purpose in sport is to eliminate passion (4)

LAST WEEKS RESULTS

Across: 1 Lethal, 4 Two-faced, 9 Assume, 10 Witching hour, 12 Elan, 13 Class, 14 Cube, 17 Front benches, 20 Social unrest, 23 Blue, 24 Agate, 25 Keep, 28 Outstrip, 29 Bobbin, 30 Bone idle, 31 Ararat.

Down: 1 Leave off, 2 Testator, 3 Arms, 5 Whimsicality, 6 Fact, 7 Clique, 8 Degree, 11 Sleeping pill, 15 Athos, 16 Feint, 18 December, 19 Step on it, 21 Absorb, 22 Button, 26 Etui.

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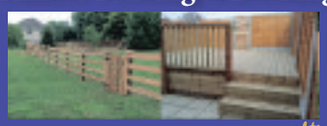

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Curiosity cabinet moved to new site

Advertisement feature

OVER the years it has entertained thousands of young visitors to a Shropshire beauty spot.

Now Ellesmere's "Cabinet of Curiosities" has relocated from the Boathouse, next to the Mere, to the town's market hall.

The cabinet allows people to test their senses and learn about the history of the town.

Lincoln McMullan, chairman of the town's chamber of commerce said he thinks the cabinet will be a good addition to the market hall.

"The market hall is developing nicely and we are keen to get more events in there," he said.

"The cabinet is full of curiosity things. There is a magnifying glass, TV screen, holes to guess what you are feeling, viewing boxes, spy holes.

Loads of the cabinets open up, you can pull drawers out and there is a place to make tracings.

"Kids can learn about the history of the town. There are old pictures of the town, like the Mere. I might use it to advertise businesses as well.

"It is quite a big structure and I am hoping it will get more use now that it is in the market hall."

Mr McMullan said all the items in the cabinet were taken out before it was moved and they were due to be put back today.

Last year the market hall was revamped to allow bosses to hire the building for parties and private functions.

Pat McLaughlin MBE, with the Cabinet of Curiosity now located at the Market Hall, Ellesmere.

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Church choir were on song at vicar's induction service

by Toby Neal

THIS photo loaned by Allan Peever of Weston Rhyn shows the induction in March 1938 of the new vicar at Criftins.

It has been in the family many years – Allan's father John was a churchwarden and is on it.

"I think I've probably had it since my mother died in 1986 and we had to empty the house," says Allan.

On the back of the photo his father wrote: "Institution of the Rev A.E.H. Berry to Criftins, March 1938, by the Bishop of Stafford. Churchwardens Capt. R.C.D. Owen and J. Peever."

Names

Allan can also give some names: "To the left of the photo are senior members of the church choir, namely, from left, Bill Evans, Walter Forrester, Frank Evans, Albert Hampson (face partly hidden), John Forrester (father to Walter), vicar not known, then John Revell, village grocer and baker. The two church wardens standing each side of the door are, to the left, Captain Robert Owen, and to the right, John Peever."

The vicar was the Rev Arthur Ernest Homan-Berry and you'll be able to identify him quickly from this childhood memory of Allan, who was born in 1924.

"As children we used to think he would be able to fly if he flapped his big ears," he said.

Allan's father is the gentleman in a dark suit in the centre of the photo.

Another thing that Allan remembers as a choirboy about the Rev Homan-Berry is that he was a very good organist.

The Institution of the Rev A.E.H. Berry to Criftins, March 1938, by the Bishop of Stafford.

"I remember that we used to take it in turns to blow the organ for a lady called Miss Gleaves who used to play the organ, but not very well. When Homan-Berry got on it we had to pump and pump and pump. We didn't like it because we had to work too hard.

"The one who did it mostly was one who didn't sing too well, but if he was not there I had to do it."

Allan, who was known as Roy in those days, started school life in the old parish hall at Criftins – the school building had burned down and a replacement had not yet been built.

On his first day, naturally he wasn't yet aware that he shouldn't talk in class.

"Miss Gleaves was the organist and also a schoolteacher," he recalled.

"She called everybody 'little' and she said: "You're a naughty boy, little Roy. You must stay in at dinner time'."

The parish hall was, he says, divided up using screens on castors.

"She forgot all about me. I was there for ages until I heard the door open and my mum coming looking for me. That was my first day at school."

Council to put fresh emphasis on tourism

A TOWN council is putting an emphasis on tourism to help local businesses.

Oswestry Town Council is prioritising the regional tourism action plan over the coming 12 months, and will be organising a seminar to discuss how best to bring in new visitors.

David Preston, town clerk, said it was estimated that 2.2 million people visited the Oswestry and North Shropshire area each year.

"More than 90 per cent of those are day visitors," he said.

As part of the plan to encourage more people to stay overnight, the town council is managing a scheme to bring more bed and breakfast beds into use.

The grant scheme lets B&Bs bid for support to pay for additional bedrooms, structural alterations and the installation of lifts.

The town's markets are also being looked at as a tourist attraction. During 2014 there will be a programme of specialist markets in addition to the weekly general markets and monthly farmers' market.

Town mayor, Councillor Chris Schofield said: "The town council has welcomed the regional tourism strategy and is prepared to take the lead by organised a local tourism conference. We will be bringing together all the key players."

Festival reports record entries

A RECORD number of young musicians from across Shropshire, north Wales and the West Midlands have entered this year's Oswestry Youth Music Festival.

The festival will run from February 27 to March 2 with more than 300 talented young singers, instrumentalists, bands, choirs and orchestras entering this year.

Town councillor Martin Bennett, chairman of Oswestry Youth Music Committee, said: "The festival attracts entrants from all over the North Wales and West Midlands border area, and the standard just gets better from year to year. This year we have a record entry of over 300.

"All the classes are free to watch and we welcome audiences to come and enjoy the talented performances.

"There are classes for all – from beginners to experts, from singers to instrumentalists, from solo to bands.

The provisional programme will see the festival begin on the Thursday and mostly completed by the Friday.

On the Saturday the piano and percussion solo classes and beginners classes will perform.

The festival will conclude on the Sunday with a concert at Christchurch, Arthur Street, at 2pm.

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Clare conquers her fear of exercise with new regime

WHEN Clare Walker wanted to get fit after giving birth to her twin daughters she turned to traditional methods – the gym and exercise DVDs.

But after finding the gym difficult and the DVDs lonely, she turned to a different style of exercise and took up CrossFit. Eleven years later, she and husband Rob are now preparing to open their own CrossFit "box" in Oswestry.

Clare, from Bentley Drive, Oswestry, said: " As a child I was overweight and too shy to take part in sports activities; a child who prayed not to be chosen for school sports day events. My schoolmates and I had little confidence in my abilities, which meant I was the last to be picked for the team. I felt I was not good enough to take part.

"During my time at university I started going to a globo gym, but I found the gym to be a boring and lonely place. It was a place where I often felt unsure of what to do. All of the equipment seemed complex and intimidating. Nothing was very inspiring, and I never really stuck to a program. Still, I felt pleased that I could say I was 'going to the gym.'

Difficult

"Fast-forward a few years. I gave birth to twin girls. It was difficult to go to the gym. My exercise was following fitness DVDs. I really enjoyed the programmes, however, it's lonely jumping around the living room on your own!

"As the children grew older my husband Rob and I started to work out together. Using his sports science background and years of experience we developed our own way of training. We later discovered it contained elements of CrossFit.

"Rob became excited about CrossFit and finding a box to train at. To be honest I was a little apprehensive. I did not know anybody else who did CrossFit. We followed **CrossFit.com** and the 2013 CrossFit games – Rob even competed, learning movements only days before being judged.

Clare and Rob found the ideal premises for their new CrossFit "box" on Maesbury Road Industrial Estate and plan to have the gym up and running in February.

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE
with Pam Kingsley

CrossFit – which include Hollywood stars Matt Damon and Cameron Diaz among its fans – have a programme of exercises from squats and lunges with heavy weights to handstand push-ups, rope-climbing and tyre-flipping.

And Clare, 37, is hoping that the gym will be somewhere teenagers will feel comfortable exercising as well as adults.

"We completed the Crossfit Kids seminar in Belfast, which really helped us formalize the training method we use for our own kids," she said. "We can now think about expanding this opportunity to other kids in our local area.

"Crossfit is not simply about being physically prepared, it's also about education. We have the opportunity to develop and shape character, integrity, honesty, and other key personal values, particularly with kids."

●For more information visit **www.crossfitoswestry.com** or call 07450 083234.

Clare Walker at the opening the new gym.

Advice to visitors as virus hits hospital

VISITORS to a hospital used by many patients from the Oswestry and Welshpool areas are being asked to help keep norovirus outbreaks contained.

Admissions to two wards at Wrexham Maelor Hospital – Cunliffe and Erddig – were recently suspended after a number of patients started with symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting.

Although laboratory tests have not confirmed that norovirus is responsible, the hospital has putting rigorous infection control measures in place to limit the spread of any outbreak.

People are also asked not to visit the hospital if they have suffered from diarrhoea and vomiting recently.

Consultant microbiologist Dr Chris Cefai said: "We know that norovirus is circulating. It is therefore really important that people don't unwittingly bring the bug into hospital.

"The most important rule is not to visit if you have had diarrhoea or vomiting in the last 48 hours. If you have had these symptoms and are due to come in as a patient, give us a ring so we can make preparations.

"If you are going to visit an affected ward then make sure you wash hands before you enter and leave, and don't bring young children with you to visit affected wards."

Youngsters urged to join youth council

YOUNG people are being urged to get involved in the running of a town's youth council.

The youth council has been run by Oswestry Town Council for several years, but is currently keen to get more members.

Schools in the town put forward members, as does The Centre, but the youth council said other organisations, such as guides and scouts and sporting groups would be welcome to widen the views represented

Spokesman Josh Paige said: "We would like to see more young people get involved. It is very important that young people get involved in the life of their community.

"They are the future of that community and so they should have an input into how it develops."

Josh, a student at The Marches School, is also standing for election to become a member of the Youth Parliament for Shropshire.

Bowling club

THE next meeting of the Llanfair Bowling Club will be held on February 25 at 7.30pm in the club house at Llanfair Caereinion. The club is looking to elect a chairperson.

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THE ARTS

01691 668094

Art gallery unveils its programme for spring

by Graham Breeze

AN OSWESTRY art gallery will this year be hosting everything from enamelling, weaving and print-making to Tai Chi and song and dance.

The Willow Gallery in Oswestry unveiled its 2014 programme at the weekend.

It includes music, creative workshops and art classes.

Gallery curator Tereska Shepherd said: "This is our biggest and most diverse range of courses, workshops and classes this spring and summer.

"We expect there to be a lot of interest, so advance booking is recommended for all the events."

Among the art classes will be an art history course with guest speakers, drawing lessons, a mould making sculpture course, flower painting sessions, an oil painting course and life painting drawing classes.

Creative

The creative workshops will range from making sculptures in a day to creating flowers out of felt, with weaving, enamelling, printmaking and cloisonne – an ancient technique for decorating metalwork objects – also on the schedule.

And in March the gallery will be teaming up with Oswestry LitFest to host a free drawing and poetry workshop exploring creative responses to inspiring poems, and a felt book making workshop to create traditional pages or something very imaginative.

Children are invited to join an after school art workshops which will start in March to experiment with a variety of techniques including weaving, printmaking, sculpture and painting, as well as learning a little art history.

Artist Pat Thatcher and Riikka Katajamaki launch the new year's events at the Willow Gallery in Oswestry.

They will also be able to try 3D weaving and silk painting in April. Music features heavily in the programme too, with Tai Chi, Qi Gong and Tai Chen sessions, 1950s dance classes, singing lessons, a songwriting session, folk and ceilidh dance workshops and an acoustic blues guitar workshop. For more information visit the gallery, call (01691) 657575 or email **willowgalleryoswestry@gmail.com**

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GIG GUIDE 01691 668094

Village hall concert raises charity cash

IT'S good music for a good cause on Saturday as Llanymynech Village Hall will be holding a special charity concert.

The concert is being held to raise money for Cancer Research UK and The Cystic Fibrosis Trust, and will feature a variety of local bands.

Local folk instrumental duo John Neilson and Meri Lawes will be performing alongside The Men From Off, who describe themselves as "fairly close harmony singers".

You can expect plenty of quality Bluegrass and Americana courtesy of local favourites Little Red Bird.

There will also be music from Nostalgia, a local six-piece all female acappella group.

Rounding things off will be some comic sketches from the LADS, which are sure to get you in stitches.

Tickets are just £6 and the concert starts at 7.45pm. Tickets from the Mile End Tourist Information office, The Herbarium in Oswestry or by ringing 0790 3436744.

If you're looking for something to do tonight (Thursday) then you're in luck, as kinokulture will be screening a live broadcast of Coriolanus at the Attfield Theatre. The play which is being produced by Donmar Warehouse is being screened as part of National Theatre Live, which aims to bring National Theatre productions to a wider audience.

Joe Seager on stage at Oak Live.

Recognise

In the title role is Tom Hiddleston, who you may recognise from his performance in War Horse, though he is probably best known for playing Loki in The Avengers and Thor films.

He will be joined by Mark Gatiss who is taking on the role of Menenius; you probably know Gatiss for his role as Mycroft Holmes in BBC's Sherlock.

The broadcast begins at 7pm with doors opening at 6.30pm. Tickets for the event will cost £12 for adults and £10 for under 16s. For details you can ring the box office on 0845 2500517.

Talented singer song writer and one man band Joe Seager will be performing at The Royal Oak, Welshpool, on Friday night. A regular face on the local music scene, Joe has honed his live act by performing at venues across the UK.

Back in 2006 he reached the top 30 in the student music awards and has since then made numerous appearances on BBC Radio.

A consummate professional he has vast repertoire of covers to draw on, including songs by the likes of the Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Neil Young and The Police. He combines a great singing voice with skilled guitar playing, and his passion for music really comes through in his songs.

If you're looking to sit back and enjoy some really good covers, then this is for you. The gig starts at 9pm and is free entry.

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Children's choir will perform in opera

TWO choirs of children have been invited to take part in a professional production.

Oswestry School's combined choir will join Llanidloes High School choir to take part in several choruses which will be performed by Mid Wales Opera & Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama at Theatre Hafren in Newtown, before the performance of the opera *Acis and Galatea* by Handel.

The performance will be on February 7 and will be accompanied by an authentic baroque ensemble.

Preparations for the concert have included many rehearsals and a visit to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff.

Julian Cattley, director of music at Oswestry School, said: "This is an incredible opportunity to work under the expert direction of Mervyn Cousins, formerly the musical director and chief executive of the Llangollen International Eisteddfod and director of music at Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral.

"During the development and rehearsal pupils will have the opportunity to work with performers from Mid-Wales Opera and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama."

A feeling that nature is gearing up for the spring

FEBRUARY is at last upon us. Winter is over for another nine months and spring is ready to burst.

Ok, not quite. But there is a sense this month that nature is gearing up for slightly warmer times.

Winter is certainly still with us, yet from the end of this week onwards, we start thinking about spring and may find ourselves using words such as "herald" and "harbinger" in the natural world.

It seems that only spring is heralded, and for good reason, yet what for you is the main harbinger to signify that season?

For me it is not daffodils or leaf buds, eggs or blossom. It is one particular family of birds and they proclaim it from the rooftops, quite literally.

If you had a turdus sitting on your perfectly manicured lawn, you may or may not be pleased. I certainly would be because a turdus is a thrush and thrushes are what February is all about.

Our visitors from Scandinavia and Iceland, the redwings and fieldfares, are both thrushes and they will remain with us throughout the month.

Singing

Our familiar blackbirds belong to the same family, as does the less common ring ouzel. And then of course there are the obvious ones, the song thrush and the mistle thrush. It is perhaps the mistle thrush that is the best harbinger of spring out and about at the moment.

The mistle thrush (turdus viscivorus) is the largest member of the thrush family here in the UK.

It begins singing this month because it's such an early breeder that males need to assert their territory before eggs are laid towards the end of the month. Helpfully they tend to serenade the neighbourhood from the loftiest perch around and so are easy to spot, even if you happen to be hard of hearing.

But don't be fooled. In the treetops it may be a charming vocalist but on the ground the mistle thrush is an aggressive and powerful bird that stands upright and hops around, tending to bully other birds away from its food source or territorial post.

ON THE WILD SIDE
by Ben Waddams

It gets its name from its penchant for mistletoe and is an important "agent" in the reproductive cycle of this plant.

Its range spans across Europe to North Africa and Western Asia yet this particular "turdus" has not made it across to America yet. However there are many other members of the turdus family that have and the most famous is . . . the robin.

The "American robin" that is, for unlike its British counterpart which is a member of the muscicapidae family and erithacus genus (old world flycatchers) the American robin is not a robin at all but another thrush.

I was lucky enough to grow up in Connecticut and the "robin" was our state bird. Michigan and Wisconsin seemed to have the same idea but there are plenty to go round. Again, the American robin is another early breeder and like our mistle thrush, is one of the first birds to lay eggs across much of its range and henceforth is regarded as . . . you guessed it – a bit of a harbinger.

So whichever side of the Atlantic you find yourself this February, if you find yourself talking to someone interested in the natural world, chances are they've got a turdus in mind.

Ben's original artworks are available from Callaghan's Fine Paintings, Shrewsbury.

Dappled light – American robin – by Ben Waddams.

Plans for 300-home scheme are unveiled

MULTI-million pound plans for a mini village, with a school, shop, industrial units and 300 new homes near the Shropshire border have been unveiled.

The development would be built on a 57-acre site south of Ruabon, alongside the A483 to the north of Oswestry.

London-based developer, Wynnstay Farming Company Ltd say the project would create hundreds of jobs including construction jobs while it was being built.

A spokesman for the developers Matthew Thompson said: "We have listened to feedback and believe this is the right development for the right site and it is now in the hands of planners.

"We have allocated an area previously identified for housing to accommodate a primary school after people told us there were too few primary school places in the area.

"We are continuing to speak with food store retailers, house builders and a pub/hotel operator who have shown interest.

"We believe this scheme will bring a major economic benefit to the area."

The outline application for the scheme has been submitted and will be considered by the planning committee in the coming months.

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January 27

OTMS (65)

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A solid Charolias cow weighing 908 kg from E H Pennie & Son, Gwern-yr-ychan, made the top price of £1280.28, Messrs Pennie are therefore in receipt of the Briarwood Products ltd price of £25 for the highest priced older cow sold on the day. TM & EE & TG Williams, Nantygeifr, presented a Limousin cow weighing 737 kg making £1127.61. A similar Limousin cow weighed 717kg and made £1125.69 from G & H Jerman, Tynyrwtra. The younger cows topped at £1349.66 for a 2008 born British blue cow weighing 754 kg from TM & EE & TG Williams, Nantygeifr. A heavier British Blue cow from D A & O Williams, Penylan weighed 873 kg and made £1274.58. An under 72 month Charolias bull weighing 772 kg made £1119.40 from R G Bebb & Co, Caermynach. M & K Brown, Rock, presented a smart Charolais heifer under 48 month weighing 605kg which sold for £1149.50. Another younger Hereford heifer from R W Llewellyn, LLynwood weighed 651kg and sold for £943.95.

FAT CATTLE (23)

An excellent entry of 23 fat cattle averaged 200.69 ppkg for the heifers and 188.48 ppkg for the steers. 2 medium weight Limousin Steers weighed 510 kg and 490 kg achieved 201 ppkg respectively from EE & MJ Jones & Sons, Cwmbychan. RE & EJ Rowlands, Ty Cam, presented 5 similar heavy weight Limousin steers weighing 558kg, 594kg, 587kg, 591kg and 570kg selling for 199 ppkg, 193 ppkg, 190 ppkg, 190 ppkg and 187 ppkg. T & B Williams, Cil Mawr presented a top quality heavy weight British Blue heifer weighing 553 kg making the sale day top price ppkg of 241 ppkg, Messrs Williams are therefore in receipt of the Briarwood Products Ltd price of £25. A Limoisin heifer weighing 563kg made 240 ppkg from M A Jones & Son, Pentre Hall.

PRIME LAMBS (5354)

An entry of 5354 prime lambs, averaged 182.22 pp/kg.

Super Lights (150) to 165 pp/kg from J G Ellis & Son, Tynewydd. Others to 161 pp/kg from T H Roberts, Bryndreinog. Average of 148.06 pp/kg.

Lights (550) to 184 pp/kg from J G H Griffiths, Bettws Hill and WW & OR Watkin, Bronygarth. Others to 183 pp/kg from DSW Jones & Co, Ysguboriau. Average of 170.16 pp/kg.

Standards (1285) to 222 pp/kg from DA & HW & H Littlehales, Pentervin Farm. Others to 213 pp/kg from W K Davies, Offas Way. Average of 183.18 pp/kg.

Mediums (2044) to 210 pp/kg from I & J Evans, LLwyn Hywel Farm and GE & RM Morris, The Belan. Others to 206 pp/kg from D Langford, Gaer. Average of 183.90 pp/kg.

Heavies (1007) to 187 pp/kg from E H Pennie & Son, Gwern-yr-ychain. Others to 184 pp/kg from G P Pugh & Son, The Garth. Average of 172.20 pp/kg.

Over Weights (273) to 167 pp/kg from D R Oliver & Son, Tirddu and Red House farm, Aberhafesp. Others to 166 pp/kg also from Red House Farm, Aberhafesp. Average of 156.09 pp/kg.

CULL EWE (2062)

An improved trade returned an overall average of £47.50 for the ewes and £59.60 for the rams. Plenty of top quality entries found to include full pens of Texels at £110 and £104.50 respectively as well as a Beltex at £108, all consigned by D R Owen, Sandilands. An entry from E J Evans, Penygraig also realised £109.50. Plenty of well-meated rams on offer selling to £100 from J Ellis & Son, Tynewydd.

Weekly sale of cull sheep to follow immediately after the sale of prime lambs at approx noon.

STORE LAMBS

Store Lambs: An increase in the number of store lambs forward to 541 with an average price of £52. A more mixed trade with some pleasing prices. A top price of £65.80 was reached for Texel cross theave lambs coming from Mr Edwards, Glanaber. £65 was achieved for Texel whether lambs from Powys Poultry, Coedcaehaidd.

Mixed and clean and tup lambs achieved a top price of £64.00 from BW and KJ Bebb, Pant Farm.

79 in lamb ewes sold well this week with the top price being £92 for as found ewes coming from GT Hughes, Cefn Groilen who also produced the top price of £80 for full mouth ewes.

Next week store lambs sold from 10.30 am followed by in-lamb ewes.

DAIRY CATTLE

An entry of nine dairy cattle sold to a sound trade. Leading the way at £2080 was a Markwell Marshall Braveheart sired second calver from G Jones & Co, Tycerrig with 3 other Pedigree Holstein Friesian cows from the same seller selling to £1950, £1560 and £1650. N M Roberts & Partners, Oak Mount Farm, presented Preepark Avalon Nadine a pedigree Friesian heifer which went under the hammer for £1700.

A breakdown of all prices are as follows; £2000 + 1 lot; £1800-£2000 1 lot; £1600-£1800 2 lots; £1400-£1600 4 lots; £1200-£1400 1 lot.

Forthcoming Sales

Thursday 6th February – Pedigree Charolais Cattle.

Monday 10th February – Store Cattle to include Organics and Weanlings.

Tuesday 25th February – February Store Cattle Fair.

Tuesday 11th March – Store Cattle to include Organics and Weanlings.

Tuesday 25th March – March Store Cattle Fair.

Tuesday 8th April- Store Cattle to include Organics and Weanlings.

Monday 14th April – Easter Spring Lamb Show & Sale.

Oswestry cattle auctions

January 22

FAT CATTLE: (100)

Another good number of cattle forward met a slight dip in the trade on all types the same as reported from other centres as a result of the drop in the deadweight price. Bulls again very hard work whatever they were. Top slots hit 240p for Heifers, 209p for Steers and 207p for bulls. Highest price in the lump was £1460 for a Steer. Bottom book of 135p for a plain friesian bull our overall market average of 183.5p was achieved.

Young Bulls (23) Overall Average 166.5p.

Medium Bulls (16) Average 168p (£885/head) Selling to 207p from R E Hughes Parc Farm.

Heavy Bulls (7) Average 164p (£995/head) Selling to 188p from W R Jones Henfache.

Steers (33) Overall Average 182p.

Medium Steers (9) Average 188p (£1005/head) Selling to 200p from J D Jones Croggen Iddon.

Heavy Steers (24) Average 180.5p (£1105/head) Selling to 209p from D & M G Hughes & Sons Tainymynydd.

Heifers (44) Overall Average 193.5p.

Medium Heifers (6) Average 174.5p (£810/head) Selling to 192p from N A Derwas Plas Trehelig.

Heavy Heifers (38) Average 196.5p (£1080/head) Selling to 240p from J H & S E Roberts & Sons Rolly Farm.

The trade is back everywhere not just here, all cattle today with plenty of cover! Just how they should be sold. Thank you for your support.

FAT HOGGETS: (2695)

Superlights to 176p average 175p Lights to 221p average 178.5p, Standards to 210p average 184.5p, Mediums to 222p average 190.5p, Heavy's to 190p average 172.5p, Others to 165p average 153p. Overall average 186.5p.

FAT EWES: (575)

A smaller entry forward met with another encouraging trade with spirited bidding for the majority yet over fat ewes still hard to place. An overall average of £42.56 was reported with a top price of £86 for 3 ewes from H C & F C Roberts, Nesscliffe. A large entry of 54 rams met a more mixed trade with an average of £51 and a top price of £90 for a ram from J2 Farming, Oswestry.

Please Note : All sheep entering the Market must be tagged.

CALVES: (55)

Rather surprisingly a reduced entry selling to another excellent trade particularly for best continental males with British Blues exceeding £400 twice, friesians and other continentals also keenly contested. British Blue Bulls to £415 (British Blue x Limousin) from Messrs Roberts Ty Issa £405 (British Blue x Simmental) from Messrs Moseley Dairy Barn. Simmental Bulls to £390 from Messrs Evans Halton Farm. Limousin Bulls to £390 from Messrs Andrew Neuadd Uchaf £352 from Messrs Moore Oaks Farm £265 from Messrs Evans Halton Farm. Charolais Heifers to £305 (twice) from Messrs Andrew Neuadd Uchaf. British Blue Heifers to £295 from Messrs Francis New Barns £265 from Messrs Johnson Pengwern Hall. Limousin Heifers to £272 from Messrs Moore Oaks Farm £264 from Messrs Andrew Neuadd Uchaf. Hereford Heifers to £256 from Messrs Davies Park Mill Farm. Friesian Bulls to £140 from Messrs Lloyd Pentref £95 from Messrs Davies Lower Fawnog £78 from Messrs Roberts Far Heldre £75 from Messrs Gilman Birch Hall.

Weanlings: British Blue Heifers 5 – 6 mo to £418 from Messrs Lewis Caenymynydd £408 from Messrs Edwards Tynymaes. Hereford Bulls 6 mo to £355 Hereford Heifers 6 mo to £318 and £315 from Messrs Edwards Tynymaes

U72 & CULL COWS: (83)

An excellent entry of 83 cattle met with another very good trade.

There was a shortage of continental cattle forward but demand was strong for all types. Top price Cow 158p/kg, Heifer 178p/kg, Steer173p/kg and Bull 177p/kg

Cows

Limousin to 158p average 117.36p/kg

Friesian to 130p average 99.46p/kg

Others to 127p average 104.21p/kg

Heifers

Charolais to 178p average 155.55p/kg

Limousin to 172p average 161.53p/kg

Friesian to 150p average 135.47p/kg

Steers

Friesian to 150p average 143.38p/kg

Others to 173p average 161.21p/kg

Bulls to 177p/kg

83 Cattle average 116.47p/kg

If any vendor has changed their Farm Assured details please could you notify the market office 01691 653547 so our data base can be updated many thanks.

Llegodig Flock Sale

January 10

Welshpool Livestock Sales were highly honoured to receive the instructions of T D and M J Orrells & Son to conduct a Reduction Sale of 'The Llegodig Flock' of M V Pedigree Texel In Lamb ewes at the Buttington Cross Centre.

All the ewes comprising of 84 yearlings, 20 two-year-olds, 18 three-year-olds and 20 four, five and six-year-olds were all homebred and of top quality.

They were in lamb to Sportmans 02, Lloegodig Reunion, Tima Scotch N Rye, Caereinion Statesman, Noresk Imperial, Muiresk Final Winston, Meinspride King Kong, Hollyford Nijinsky and Clun Othello.

The 100% clearance which was attended by a packed audience in the auditorium sale ring realised the following averages.

84 – Yearlings Ewes £407.00

20 – 2 y.o. Ewes £622.65

18 – 3 y.o. Ewes £548.33

20 – 4, 5 and 6 y.o. Ewes £602.17

Leading the top prices was a two year old ewe Llegodig OLL 1100 210 sired by Meinspride King Kong and in lamb to Llegodig Reunion selling at 1,550 gns (£1,627.50) to S J Smith, Penybryn, Castle Caereinion of The Penparc Flock.

A 2009 born ewe Llegodig OLL09 803 also sold to 1,500 gns (£1,575) and went on to The Clun Flock of A E Williams & Son, Folly Bank, Newcastle On Clun.

Of the 142 sheep forward 50 ewes exceeded £500 which emphasized the quality that was on offer, with an overall average of £483.00.

Auctioneers: J G Lewis, J O Evans, R D Evans.

U3A's members get to grips with new kit

MEMBERS of the Oswestry Borders U3A group got their hands on new computer and audio/visual equipment at their January meeting.

The group has recently bought a projector, portable pull-up screen and laptop, together with a lectern with a lamp and wireless radio microphone for speakers to used.

An ICT group will provide hands-on sessions to help members learn how to use the equipment, and at the March members' meeting the group will be able to practise setting up the equipment and using the radio and hand-held microphones.

The equipment was bought with a £1,113 grant from the Local Joint Council funding. U3A – or the University of the Third Age – is a group for retired and semi-retired people where they can share their skills and life experiences.

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Drivetime

No hands for a first flavour of the Macan

By Matt Joy

Porsche still won't let the media actually drive its new Macan, but we're one of the first to experience what it can do in the hands of a test driver.

The location is the ADAC Fahrsicherheitszentrum test facility a short motorway drive from Dusseldorf's international airport. The cars have been warmed, our technological briefings have come and gone, and the time has come for a first taste of the Macan (in the passenger seat, of course).

First up is some off-roading, for which I climb into the Macan Diesel alongside a long, curly-haired German engineer who's quite keen to tell the 'assembled' journalists in three of the four passenger seats all about how the four-wheel drive system works.

It electronically shuffles power to the wheels that can best use it, while simultaneously killing wheelspin at those that can't, absolutely maximising the potential traction and dragging the compact but rather tubby (at nearly two tonnes) Macan up challenging slopes with gusto.

It's only on standard road tyres, too.

The diesel engine, a very familiar single-turbo unit with 254bhp, will eventually be put in the shade by the excellent Bi-Turbo lump, which packs more than 300bhp. But for now, the lower-powered 3.0-litre V6 does an impressive all-round job.

But now it's time for the track. I make a bee-line for the Macan Turbo, the fastest and most expensive model in the range. A newly-developed 3.6-litre V6 provides the grunt, while turbocharging helps boost power up to 400 metric horses.

That's enough to push you back into your seat, hard, as our new not-so-long-haired German driver kindly demonstrates to the sound of a muted woofle from the exhausts, turning into a muffled bark at high revs. Its brakes are devastatingly effective too, hauling the German beefcake down to corner-appropriate speeds as though someone has thrown an anchor out of the window.

That a Porsche of any shape or size would be anything other than rapid at both going and stopping is unthinkable. But the jury is out as to the dynamic merits of the Macan's gargantuan Cayenne big brother, so as the driver launches the smaller car over a corner-exit crest, the chassis snaking sideways across the tarmac as much of the weight leaves the wheels, I realise I don't know how this is going to end.

Very well, as it turns out. When the car's bulk lands back on its adaptive air springs it simply settles itself with a hint of electronic intervention at the back end, and carries on its way. It doesn't feel lightweight, but as a passenger, it feels astonishingly capable.

Helpfully, Herr Driver seems to sense my positive leanings and decides to demonstrate how well the Macan can power-slide. It does, if only with a dedicated boot-full of the go-go pedal, but as I gaze blankly at the approaching scenery through the side window I can't help but notice that, actually, this big, heavy Macan has a mighty balance and stability about it. Even when sideways.

The electronics make a big difference to the overall experience.

Softly-sprung suspension gets much firmer at the push of a button, and the gearbox can be set up to hang onto each ratio for as long as it can.

Arguably most fun, though, are the parps and gargles that come from the exhaust.

Porsche calls its non-sports cars, the Panamera and Cayenne, the sports cars within their sectors. The truth of that is, frankly, subjective, but after this preview it looks like the Macan might genuinely put the Sports into SUV.

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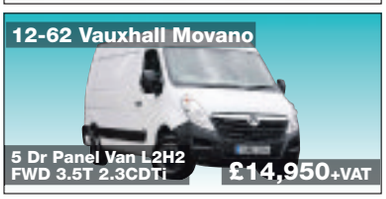

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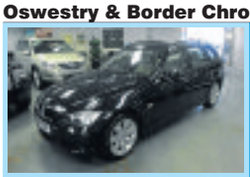

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2009 59	**AUDI A3 1.6 TDi SPORT** 5-door Manual. 1 owner, 35,000 miles, £30 pa Road Tax	£11,999
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2010 60	**CITROEN C3 1.6 HDi EXCLUSIVE** 5-door Manual. Bright Blue Metallic, 23,000 miles, £30 pa Road Tax	£7,999
2009 59	**CITROEN C4 VTR+ HDi 5-door.** Red, 60,200 miles	£5,799
2012 12	**CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi D SPORT** Manual. Metallic Blue, Black roof, 11,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£12,999
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2007 57	**MERCEDES C220 CDi ELEGANCE** Auto. Metallic Silver, full leather, 77,000 miles, FSH	£8,999
2012 62	**MG 6 1.8 TURBO HATCH** 5-door, Manual, 1,800 miles, White. Like brand new	£8,999
2008 08	**NISSAN Qashqai 1.5 DCi VISIA** 5-door Manual. Metallic Blue, 73,000 miles, FSH	£7,499
2006 06	**NISSAN 350Z 300** 6 speed Manual. Metallic Grey, full heated Black leather, only 37,000 miles	£8,999
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2002 02	**SEAT LEON 1.4 S 16V** 5-door. Bronze Metallic, alloy wheels, 79,000 miles, excellent condition	£1,999
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2007 57 MERCEDES C220 CDi ELEGANCE Auto. Metallic Silver, full leather, 77,000 miles, FSH **£8,999**

SPORT

Houdini Hajdari sparks comeback

FISNIK Hajdari inspired The New Saints Under-19s to a rousing comeback against Dudley at Park Hall stadium.

With his side trailing 3-0, Hajdari confidently converted a penalty before scoring late on to secure a 4-3 victory for the Saints.

The visitors started the second half well and raced into a three goal lead. However, Jake Mantell's first of the game gave TNS hope and within two minutes, Hajdari added his first to reduce the arrears further.

Mantell completed his brace after he raced onto a fantastic ball from Adam Davies to equalise with only five minutes left.

As the game went into stoppage time, Ryan Pryce did well to get down the right hand side before finding Hajdari in space and the TNS forward made no mistake from close range to seal the victory.

Teens score futsal title

THE NEW SAINTS under-16s became North Wales Futsal champions after defeating Gap Connah Quay 5-4 in the final.

Having beaten Bangor City 9-2in the semi-final, the Saints triumphed in the final thanks to a last minute strike from Ross Tyler.

Next month, they will play the South Wales Futsal champions in a match that will determine who will be crowned the Futsal champions of Wales.

PLACINGS

Spar Mid Wales League

Division one: Dyffryn Banw 0, Llandrindod Wells 3; Four Crosses 1, Aberystwyth Uni 5; Tywyn Bryncrug 2, Waterloo 8; Welshpool 0, Aberaeron 4. **Division two:** Hay St Mary's 1, Kerry 2; Newbridge-on-Wye 0, Bont 0; Rhosgoch 3, Talgarth 1.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
L'drindod Wells	17	16	1	0	74	8	49
Berriew	17	13	1	3	56	19	40
Waterloo	21	12	4	5	57	32	40
Llanfair Utd	17	12	3	2	46	17	39
Aberaeron	19	11	3	5	43	25	36
Carno	16	11	2	3	37	21	35
Llansantffraid	19	6	3	10	42	50	21
Montgomery	19	6	3	10	27	51	21
Four Crosses	19	5	3	11	39	59	18
Bow Street	17	4	3	10	25	55	15
Welshpool	19	5	2	12	28	53	14
Aber Uni	16	4	1	11	31	44	13
Tywyn/Bryncrug	12	4	0	8	25	40	12
Builth Wells	16	2	2	12	27	52	8
Dyffryn Banw	14	1	3	10	16	47	6
Dolgellau	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rhosgoch	11	10	0	1	45	13	30
Knighton	12	6	4	2	30	14	22
Machynlleth	8	7	0	1	26	14	21
Abermule	10	4	1	5	14	15	13
Hay St Marys	8	3	3	2	22	15	12
Presteigne	9	3	3	3	20	17	12
N'bridge-on-Wye	10	2	3	5	14	29	9
Talgarth	8	2	1	5	10	15	7
Bont	13	1	4	8	12	40	7
Kerry	11	1	3	7	18	39	6

Welshpool Dominoes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A
Cock P/A	16	12	4	69	43
Sun Inn	16	10	6	65	47
Pinewood C	15	10	5	61	44
Powis Arms P/Q	16	8	8	57	55
Waterloo	16	10	6	57	55
G/Dragon Butt B	14	8	6	51	47
Cock A	14	7	7	50	48
G/Dragon Butt A	16	6	10	50	62
Compasses	16	6	10	47	65
Pinewood A	14	6	8	46	52
Social Club	15	5	10	44	61
Celts	14	4	10	40	58

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A
Breidden	16	10	6	66	46
Talbot	14	11	3	65	33
Bowling Club	15	9	6	62	43
Westwood Wand	15	10	5	61	44
Kings Head	16	9	7	59	53
Pinewood Dragons	15	8	7	55	50
The Real Railway	15	8	7	55	50
Angel	16	8	8	52	60
Westwood	16	5	11	47	65
RAF Boys	16	5	11	46	66
Muriels Bunch	15	6	9	45	60
Wellington	15	3	12	31	74

English Clubs Championships

SOUTH LANCS/CHESHIRE 2

	P	W	D	L	BP	Pts
Manchester Medics	18	17	0	1	15	81
L'pool Collegiate	18	15	1	2	13	75
Ormskirk	18	15	1	2	11	73
Bowdon	18	15	0	3	12	72
Vagabonds	18	10	0	8	9	49
Oswestry	18	9	1	8	10	48
Southport	18	11	0	7	8	47
Moore	18	6	1	11	8	34
Port Sunlight	18	6	1	11	8	34
Orrell	18	5	1	12	-7	29
Marple	18	5	0	13	6	26
Dukinfield	18	4	2	12	5	25
Ramsey	18	4	0	14	2	18
Wallasey	18	0	0	18	3	-7

Five-star rivals leave Weston Rhyn in the mire

WESTON RHYN's worrying run continued as they crashed 5-0 at Madeley Sports to remain third from bottom in the Mercian Regional League premier division.

Having lost 5-2 loss at title hopefuls Telford Juniors the previous week, it proved another disappointing afternoon for Rhyn who will have a swift chance of revenge when they host the same opponents in the premier division cup on Saturday.

Depleted on numbers, the visitors were up against it on a 3G pitch as Madeley started the brighter before taking the lead.

But Matt Owen's side had a good spell, and had chances to level with Gwyn Davies forcing a fine save from the home keeper.

However, they found themselves two goals down at the break following a deflected shot, and it was always going to be an uphill battle in the second period.

They did improve after the interval, but Madeley ran out deserving winners to avenge a 4-0 loss earlier in the season.

The sides come face to face in the cup this Saturday, with Weston Rhyn hoping that forward Guy Guilford will return.

Anger

Having not kicked a ball in anger since dawning 1-1 at Wellington Amateurs on December 7, **MORDA UNITED** suffered another blank weekend when their trip to basement side AFC Bridgnorth Reserves was postponed due to the wet weather.

However, their title hopes improved as they rose to fourth in the table after Ketley Town officially withdrew from the league and had their matches expunged.

Sides above Morda had taken points off Ketley but, as the Weston Road side had yet to play Ketley, they rose to fourth.

Craig Rogers' side have games in hand over the second and third placed sides but currently trail leaders Oakengates Athletic by six points.

They hope to return to action on Saturday after an extended Christmas break when they entertain last week's planned league opponents AFC Bridgnorth Reserves in the Premier Division Cup (2pm).

Morda will have to finish the season without Paul Hughes who, injured back in October, had scored six goals and made three assists in the 10 games played since his return to Morda colours.

High-flying **FC OSWESTRY TOWN** were also left kicking their heels as their short trip to local rivals **OSWESTRY VILLA** in division one was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch at Gatacre.

Town look to stay on the trail of some silverware when they visit Clee Hill in the first division cup on Saturday – having won 3-1 at the south Shropshire club in the league just a few weeks back.

Villa welcome Childs Ercall in the league as they bid to get back on track and improve their mid-table position.

Isle of Man duck breaks as Oswestry charge to historic win

ON-SONG Oswestry stormed up to sixth spot in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two after bagging their first win on the Isle of Man with a 24-7 verdict at Ramsey.

After years of trying, the Eagles finally broke their duck across the water as they continued their unbeaten start to 2014.

They never looked back after scoring three first half tries, with fly-half Dan Williams scoring the first and adding two conversions.

The visitors' early forward pressure eventually paid off when Williams stepped through the Ramsey defence to score under the posts, which he also converted for a 7-0 lead.

The Manx hosts looked to get back into the game as they battered their way downfield and set up camp in the Oswestry 22, but were unable to take their chances.

After soaking up the pressure, the Eagles got the break they needed. Scrum half Nick Clay hacked a spilled pass downfield and with his back line in support, pinned Ramsey back into their own 22.

Tackle

The ball was moved wide and wing Nick Howland was only foiled by a last gasp tackle by Ramsey's Luke Robertson.

But second row Will Roberts then crashed over, with Williams converting.

With Ramsey reeling from the breakaway try, Oswestry launched one final attack before the interval.

No8 Tom Thorpe secured possession in midfield.

The ball was quickly spun wide where centre Gareth Hughes was on hand to dive in for a 19-0 half-time lead.

Ramsey piled on the pressure in the second half.

But some manful Oswestry defence kept them out until midway through the half when a piece of individual skill from Dan Bonwick finally broke the visiting line.

He took the ball just outside the 22, chipped over the defensive line and caught the ball under the bar. He then converted.

From the restart, Oswestry hit back almost immediately.

They turned Ramsey over around 40 metres out and quick hands fed the ball wide to Howland who dived in for the try and a bonus point to boot.

The win lifts Oswestry to sixth place in the league standings.

They are now just one point behind Vagabonds, teh team they will face in a fortnight.

Four-goal Steve netting a Hole lot of joy for Rovers

FOOTBALL
by John Bridgwater

STEVE HOLE continued his prolific campaign with a four-goal blast as Waterloo Rovers returned to action in style with an 8-2 romp at Tywyn Bryncug to consolidate their top-three position in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

Charlie Proctor joined in the spree with a hat-trick, and Marcus Ashley also found the net to lift Rovers level with second placed Berriew, although they are nine points adrift of runaway leaders Llandrindod Wells while having played four more games.

WELSHPOOL were again left to reflect on missed chances as their disappointing campaign continued with a 4-0 home loss to Aberaeron at Maesydre.

The Lilywhites spurned a couple of good chances to have been in front in the heavy conditions before falling behind through an own goal when Ian Jones headed into his own net. One goal down at half time, the hosts were caught as they pushed forward after the break, with Aberaeron capitalising to net three more times including a penalty and a late strike, to return with a flattering margin of victory.

FOUR CROSSES continue to slide in the wrong direction, being well beaten 5-1 at home by Aberystwyth University – the third week running they have conceded five goals.

Rallied

They had led 1-0 at the interval, but the students rallied in the second period with Rian Devlin firing a hat-trick and Dan Pugh and Matthew Hunton getting the others.

In a game of two halves, Four Crosses looked largely in control during the opening period, but wasted several good chances with Gaz Jones seeing a couple of efforts saved and Dylan Ellis hitting the post.

However, they were one up at the break thanks to a rare headed goal from Alex Gunn off an Ellis corner.

Crosses could and should have extended their lead in the second half, a tremendous through ball from Chris Johnson sent Jones through one-on-one only for him to shoot straight at the keeper. Just moments later and a slip by a home defender saw the students capitalise to level before quickly striking twice more to go 3-1 up. Jones had a chance at the other end and Ellis hit the bar, but the home side's fate was sealed by two late goals.

Battling to escape the lower reaches of the table, **DYFFRYN BANW** were unable to put the brakes on Llandrindod Wells, losing 3-0 at home to the unbeaten league leaders who took the spoils through Richie Powell's brace and Sean Powell.

A few days before, Banw also suffered a 4-1 loss, this time to second placed Berriew, to remain second from bottom and deep in basement danger.

Elsewhere, the weather intervened with **LLANSANTFFRAID** Village's home clash against **MONTGOMERY** postponed due to a waterlogged pitch at Treflan while Carno's home fixture with Bow Street also fell to the elements

In division two, Abermule's trip to Presteigne was called off as was Machynlleth's clash at Knighton Town. In the games that were played lowly Kerry boosted their hopes of escaping the basement with a 2-1 win at Hay St Mary's.

Newbridge and Bont played out a goalless draw while Rhosgoch were 3-1 winners against Talgarth courtesy of Trefor Lloyd, Matt Croose and an own goal.

■ Llanfair United's home clash with Berriew in division one was called off as a mark of respect following the death of one of the club's most popular and longest serving stalwarts, Gwyn 'Tanhouse' Williams.

Sunday League washout

THE wet weather hit the Roche North Shropshire Sunday League programme with three of the four scheduled games being postponed due to waterlogged pitches.

Only one match survived the elements with The Keys wining 3-2 against Tavern FC.

Next Sunday's fixtures:

Cheshire County Cup Round Two: Malpas v Spital Vaults.

League: Oak Inn v Tavern FC, Dudleston Heath v The Keys.

First-team slide to heavy defeat in the wet

Action from COBRA's 44-0 defeat away to Nant Conwy in the Swalec League division one (north)

Depleted COBRA well beaten

SHORN of forwards, depleted COBRA were up against it as they crashed 44-0 at Nant Conwy to remain in the lower reaches of the Swalec League division one (north).

The Meifod men were forced into major changes in the pack as they made the trip to their in-form hosts without any line-out jumpers and without a recognised hooker.

To make matters worse, they had Andy Evans – their only tight head prop – sent off for dissent early in the first half after a succession of penalties had gone against COBRA for collapsed scrums.

Evans felt he had been unfairly penalised with his opposite number at fault, but now faces a lengthy ban after being red-carded.

From then on, the powerful Nant Conwy pack ruled the roost in the set pieces with their numerical advantage, with five of their seven tries coming from pushovers to underline their dominance.

To their credit, the visitors battled hard, and competed well in the loose, but they were continually up against it in the scrums with three loose head props occupying their front row positions.

Advantage

The home side took full advantage, constantly forcing penalties which allowed them to kick for field position as they kept their visitors on the back foot. Defeat sees COBRA slip to second from bottom in the table, while Nant Conwy are going well in joint third position.

With Wales' internationals taking centre stage in the next fortnight, the Llanfair Caereinion side have chance to regroup with two blank weekends before returning to duty at home to Denbigh on Saturday, February 15.

WELSHPOOL's home clash with Porthmadog in the Swalec League division three (north) was postponed as their visitors were unable to raise a side.

But the Maesydre side managed to arrange some much needed action with a friendly at Llangollen.

Pool would have been glad of the run-out as they have no games for the next two weeks with Wales on international duty.

The club's second string boosted their hopes of making ground on the leaders in the NE Counties League division three (north) with a 31-7 victory over second placed Abergele.

It was also a good day for the youths who notched a 20-0 success over Flint in the North Wales Youth League.

PLACINGS

Shropshire Chess League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Newport A	9	6	1	2	30	13
Telepost A	9	6	0	3	30	12
Wellington A	9	5	2	2	25.5	12
Priorslee Lions A	9	6	0	3	24	12
Shrewsbury A	9	5	0	4	23	10
Condover & CS A	9	3	2	4	20	8
Telford A	9	1	1	7	15.5	3
Priorslee Lions B	9	1	0	8	10	2

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Ludlow A	8	5	1	2	24.5	11
Oswestry A	7	5	1	1	22	11
Telepost B	8	5	0	3	22	10
Shrewsbury B	8	4	1	3	22.5	9
Newport B	8	2	3	3	19	7
Telford B	7	2	3	2	18.5	7
Wellington B	8	3	1	4	18.5	7
Telepost C	8	0	0	8	8	0

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Telford C	9	6	1	2	24	13
Condover & CS B	9	5	3	1	22	13
Newport C	9	5	2	2	21	12
Shrewsbury C	9	4	4	1	21	12
Oswestry B	9	4	0	5	17.5	8
Priorslee Lions C	7	3	1	3	15	7
Telepost D	7	0	1	6	8.5	1
Newport Jnrs	7	0	0	7	2	0

SPORT

St Martins escape act fired up by home win

ST MARTINS boosted their hopes of escaping the drop sone in the West Midlands League division one after seeing off Ledbury Town 2-0 at the Venue Park Hall.

Although still lying second from bottom, the Saints are now level on goal difference with Hanwood United as they chase another three points at home to Hereford Lads Club on Saturday.

They made hard work of sinking Ledbury last week, denied by some fine goalkeeping and the woodwork on a number of occasions, before eventually sealing the much needed victory in the last minute.

Sammy Nash was the first to hit the post after a mazy run, Tom Mackrell firing the rebound over.

Chipped

Karl Bailey spurned a couple of one-on-ones, firing one at the keeper while seeing a chipped effort cleared off the line in another raid.

Bailey, however, finally made the breakthrough when finding the net with a low, hard shot that took a deflection.

Chris Smout headed against the bar.

The hosts dominated after the break, but were denied by some fine saves by keeper Elliott Watts.

Mackrell and sub Tim Allen both hit the bar.

Ledbury, despite being on the back foot, had a couple of chances on the break with top-scorer Daniel Herbert heading over and Jack Brayne clearing off the line.

However, the Saints sealed the victory late on when Sam Thomas fired home after the ball had fallen to him on the edge of the box.

PLACINGS

Mercian Regional Football League

Premier division: Madeley Sports 5 Weston Rhyn 0, Prees 0 Wellington Amateurs Reserves 5.

Division one: Oakengates Rangers 4 Shawbury Utd Reserves 1.

Division two: AFC Wellington 14 Denso 1, Impact Utd 3 Market Drayton Tigers 1.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
O'ates At R	15	9	3	3	38	18	30
W'church Al R	18	7	7	4	33	25	28
C Stretton	16	8	3	5	34	24	27
Morda United	15	7	3	5	47	33	24
Telford Juniors	14	7	3	4	34	24	24
FC Hodnet	16	7	3	6	21	23	24
Ketley Bnk Utd	16	7	3	6	22	29	24
Madeley Spts	18	7	2	9	32	34	23
Well'ton Ams R	15	6	4	5	28	28	22
Prees	17	6	1	10	28	41	19
Shifnal Utd 97	13	5	3	5	23	18	18
Weston Rhyn	17	5	3	9	30	47	18
Allscott	17	3	6	8	20	30	15
Bridgnorth T R	17	3	6	8	21	37	15

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oswestry Twn	17	13	3	1	69	13	42
Bshp Castle T	16	12	0	4	59	15	36
Childs Ercall	14	11	0	3	68	12	33
Dawley Town	18	9	3	6	49	41	30
Wroxeter Rvrs	11	8	3	0	47	11	27
Rock Rovers	13	8	2	3	57	27	26
Hanwood UR	15	8	2	5	47	20	26
Clee Hill	14	6	5	3	36	24	23
Oakengates R	18	7	2	9	34	47	23
Brown Clee	15	6	1	8	39	36	19
Oswestry Villa	17	5	3	9	34	42	18
Meole Brace	16	4	2	10	28	74	14
Wrock WD Jrs	19	3	2	14	21	76	11
Shwbry U Rs	18	3	1	14	19	81	10
Sh'bury Utd	19	2	1	16	26	114	7

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Broseley	19	17	2	0	104	19	50
AFC Wellington	20	14	1	5	114	41	43
Wrock Wood	18	14	2	2	89	30	41
Donn S&S	17	13	0	4	96	39	39
Impact	17	12	3	2	67	28	39
Claverley	17	10	0	7	67	31	30
M D'ton Tgrs	18	9	1	8	72	42	28
Ludlow T Clts	19	7	2	10	69	46	23
Albrighton Jnrs	17	6	1	10	45	59	19
Spalaig Brittna	20	5	2	13	29	95	17
Highley MW	19	4	3	12	44	67	15
Oswestry Vil R	17	4	2	11	20	50	14
S'bury Utd Rs	16	2	0	14	20	97	6
Denso	20	0	1	19	18	210	1

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry & District Dominoes League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Black Lion B	14	6	7	1	49	35	19
Cross Foxes	13	7	4	2	48	30	18
Plas Yn Dinas	14	7	4	3	47	37	18
Station	14	6	5	3	47	37	17
Black Lion A	13	8	0	5	48	30	16
Penybont Inn	14	5	6	3	45	36	16
Top White Lion	14	5	5	4	40	44	15
Bradford Arms	14	5	4	5	42	42	14
Horseshoe	13	5	2	6	39	39	12
White Lion	14	1	8	5	38	46	10
Barley Mow	14	3	3	8	31	53	9
Railway Tavern	13	2	3	8	30	48	7
Black Horse	14	2	3	9	31	53	7

Reigning Welshpool Dominoes League champions Pinewood C have added the KInock-out Cup to their list of honours by beating The RAF Boys 3-2 in Thursday night's final. Pictured in the winning team are – back, left to right: Terry Nicoll, Steve Pritchard, Steve Roberts; front: Udo Jones, John Harding and Graham Breeze.

More than 70 members attended the captain's drive-in at Henlle Park Golf Club. The men's Stableford was won by John Evans, while Sara Meehan won the ladies' event. Left to right: club captain Pat Roberts, ladies captain Viv Davies, and junior captain Morgan Taylor. This year's club charity is the Oswestry Bone Cancer Centre Appeal

Sweet smell of success as Lavender romps to victory

CROSS-COUNTRY

by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY runner Alison Lavender led the way as Shropshire produced a stirring display at the North Wales Cross Country League match hosted by Telford Athletic Club at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

Lavender won the ladies race, leading throughout on a very soggy course and coming home with a healthy 61-second winning margin in 22 minutes 27 seconds. Menai's Debbie Williams was second and Colwyn Bay's Isabel Redfern third and first over-40.

Yvonne Hill finished in 20th spot, the second Oswestry finisher in 28.56 and the second over-50.

Repeat

Telford AC won the team race with 51 points and are now fourth overall, just one point behind Oswestry in third, who were fourth on the day, with just one race to go this season.

Colwyn Bay were second on the day with 63 points and are the overall leaders of division one.

Telford AC's Paul Ward repeated his Shropshire Championships victory as he made light work of the very muddy conditions to score a comfortable 56-second victory in 33.31 for the 9,000m course. Oswestry's team were led home by Ian Lowe who finished 20th in 38.34.

In the men's team race, Deeside won on the day with 91 points and lead the league overall.

Oswestry, who host the final race on Saturday, February 8, were sixth on the day and are seventh overall in division one.

Meanwhile, Telford AC won the men's masters team race on the day with 22 points, while Oswestry were fifth.

Alison Lavender (left), from Oswestry Olympians, was the overall lady winner and Tristan Henry (right), from the Deeside club, was under-17 youth overall winner at the cross-country race in Lilleshall. Pics: Peter Flemmich

Telford's Paul Ward triumphed in the men's event

Two-goal Royle gets crowned in fine victory

IT proved a mixed day for hot-shot Tracey Royle as Oswestry ladies maintained their revival in the Cheshire Women's Hockey League division two with a hard-fought 2-1 win at lowly Wilmslow.

Royle scored both goals to give her side a deserved lead before sustaining a nasty cut to her head that forced her off.

The start of the game was slightly delayed due to the onset of heavy hail just as the teams were ready for push-back.

But Oswestry were soon into their stride, putting pressure on the Wilmslow goal, although the hosts were first to score against the run of play.

However, this only strengthened the visitors' resolve as they continued to press the Wilmslow goal while making sure the defence stayed strong to negate any further counter-attacks.

Their efforts paid off with the impressive Royle scoring twice to give her side a deserved lead before her involvement in the game ended when she suffered a gashed head from a raised ball.

A trip to Accident & Emergency confirmed she should be able to play next week.

After Royle's injury, the Oswestry team lost some confidence in the second half as Wilmslow started to fashion more opportunities.

But quick thinking and a number of good saves from keeper Liz Killen kept them at bay as the visitors secured a hard-fought win to go eight games unbeaten.

Oswestry will aim to continue their current run of form when they face Lymm on Saturday at Oswestry School.

Olivia foils her rivals

Oswestry student Olivia Owen-Sinclair has been crowned Midlands Regional champion in the Closed Fencing competition in foil. Olivia, a year 13 pupil at Moreton Hall School, is already the county champion, and produced another title winning display in the Midlands Regional finals to land the crown with scores in her final matches of 15-3 and 15-11. She will now go on to the nationals in May where she will go up against other regional champions competing for the national prize.

Protest has no appeal for lowly Llanrhaeadr

LOWLY Llanrhaeadr won't be appealing against the three-point deduction for failing to fulfil a fixture that has pushed them deeper into the Cymru Alliance relegation mire.

Following the resignation of manager Mario Iaquinta, the villagers were unable to raise a side for their trip to fellow strugglers Penrhyncoch which was due to take place on Saturday, December 28.

As expected, the club were docked three points and are now 15 points adrift of safety with just 11 games remaining and staring relegation in the face.

The club have the right to appeal to the FAW over the decision, but club officials say they will take their punishment despite mitigating circumstances.

"There's no point crying about it," said a spokesman.

"We need to take it and move on and look to finish the season with a bit of spirit, whether or not we go down."

Buoyed by recent displays, Llanrhaeadr were left frustrated last Saturday as their clash at Caersws was called off due to a waterlogged pitch following torrential rain just before kick-off.

Match officials delayed the start time by 30 minutes but, with little improvement to the saturated surface, called off the game.

George Hughes' side will hope to get back on the pitch on Saturday as they chase much-needed points at home to Llandudno.

Unbeaten in their last eight games, **GUILSFIELD** were also without a match last week as scheduled opponents Cefn Druids were on Welsh Cup duty with a fourth round tie at Bala.

Their Central Wales Cup tie with Machynlleth was also postponed due to the wet weather, the match being rearranged for last night, while the club are at Flint in the Cymru Alliance in Saturday.

Huws Gray Alliance

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cefn Druids	21	17	3	1	69	10	54
Caernarfon Town	20	14	3	3	62	26	45
Conwy Borough	19	13	3	3	47	22	42
Caersws	17	12	2	3	38	22	38
Guilsfield	21	8	9	4	34	28	33
Llandudno	20	8	6	6	41	27	30
Holyhead Hotspur	21	7	7	7	39	40	28
Porthmadog	22	8	3	11	38	41	27
Flint Town United	20	8	3	9	31	40	27
Rhyd'mwyn	21	7	2	12	26	49	23
Rhayader Town	23	6	6	11	32	50	24
Llanidloes Town	20	5	5	10	30	36	20
Penycae	19	6	3	10	30	42	21
Buckley Town	20	3	8	9	29	45	17
Penrhyncoch	21	2	6	13	24	47	12
Llanrhaeadr YM	19	3	1	15	23	68	7

GOLF RETURNS

WELSHPOOL

Winter League: 1 Peter Brooks 28pts, 2 Simon Roberts 24pts, 3 Justin Williams 24pts, 4 Darren Pugh 23pts, 5 Will Pritchard 21pts, 6 Alan Meredith 21pts. Jan 18th: 1 Andrew Watkins 44pts, 2 Justin Williams 44pts, 3 Nick Jones 45.5pts, 4 Alun Evans 46.5, 5 Steve Proctor 47pts.

Rabbits & Tigers: 1 Lionel Weaver and Mike Gittins +8, 2 Alun Evans and Ian Cadwallader +7, 3 Jon Gamble and Adrian Ballard +6, 4 Paul Butterworth and Jon Pierce +6.

OSWESTRY

Four-ball better-ball Medal, 15 holes: 1 Oliver Wheeler and Paul Huxley 46, 2 Richard Cowley and Ian Pearce (captain), 3 Peter Turner and William Woodward 51, 4 John Gallagher and Richard Clay 52, 5 Anthony Harrison and Glyn Buckley 52; 6 Robin Rees and John McLean 53.

Am-Am Stableford: 18-hole event: 1 Dorothy Mottram, Jenny Edwards, Maggie Brown 68pts, 2 Anne Colquhoun, Barbara Warner, Margaret Green 66pts, 3 Judith Thornell, Mary Alford, Geraldine Woolham 66pts. Nine-hole event: 1 Tania Pearce, Celia Pearce, Margaret Lynch-Jones 40pts, 2 Pauline Davies, Hilary Ward, Emma Hopton 39pts, 3 Gina Hatt, Mary Hughes, Dorothy Bowen 39pts.

SPORT

Rugby
COBRA slide to a muddy defeat
Page 38

Fencing
Olivia foils the opposition
Page 39

Harrison is on the lookout for Saints additions

THE NEW SAINTS may by well on the way to an eighth Welsh Premier crown, but director of football Craig Harrison admits he's still looking to bolster his squad.

The club's director of football is desperate to add another signing this week before the transfer window shuts – but added it must be the right player.

He has already signed youngster Ryan Edwards at the beginning of the month and is hoping to do more business before it closes as the Saints – six points clear at the top of the Welsh Premier after Airbus have been deducted one point for fielding an ineligible player – chase a record-breaking eighth title.

"We are approaching deadline day and will certainly be looking to strengthen," said Harrison. "I feel that during every transfer window it is good to freshen things up and although we have a really strong squad, I am always looking at bringing in more players. We are definitely looking at bringing in at least one more player but that has to be the right player. The player has to have the right quality and has to be able to fit in with the excellent squad that we already have here."

The Saints only signed one player during the summer and Harrison is keen to add another new face before February.

"I am not going to bring anyone in just so that I can add to the numbers because we have got enough players at the club. Scott Ruscoe is nearly fit, Steve Evans will be fit before the end of the season, so we will have those two back and, with a full squad of players, we have 21 very good footballers at the club. We also have four players out on loan (Luke Douglas, Scott Quigley, Ryan Jones and goalkeeper Chris Mullock), so worst case scenario I can bring players back from loan if we need them."

Meanwhile, fixtures for the second half of the season are to be published on Monday.

■ The Welsh Cup takes centre stage on Saturday when Saints make a potentially tricky trip to Carmarthen Town in the fourth round. Despite flying high at the top of the Welsh Premier, the Saints are under no illusions they face a tough hurdle if they are to reach the last eight.

Carmarthen have proved a tough nut to crack in the past, having already lifted the Word League Cup for a second successive season

The tie is a repeat of the 2005 final when TNS defeated the Old Gold at Llanelli 1-0 courtesy of a solitary John Lawless goal.

Mike Wilde is the only remaining TNS player to have started that match, although Steve Evans and Scott Ruscoe also played but are currently on the injured list.

The winners will book a spot in the last eight and a result is guaranteed on the day with extra-time and penalties if needed.

Carmarthen have endured problems with their pitch this season, being forced to switch a number of games, and a cloud is already hanging over the chances of Saturday's tie being played at their Richmond Park base following weeks of heavy rain.

Welshpool's Adele Nicoll

Nicoll's indoor title joy

WELSHPOOL'S young Commonwealth Games hopeful Adele Nicoll has taken the seniors scene by storm by winning the Welsh Indoor Championship title.

The 17-year-old former Oswestry Olympian threw her shot putt 14.20m to land the title in Cardiff last weekend, and launch her Commonwealth Games qualification bid on a winning note.

The throw was a new indoor personal best for Adele, and her second longest throw ever, and she seems well placed now to go on and achieve the 15m-mark that is required to qualify for this summer's Games in Glasgow. Her coach Andy Brittan said "it bodes well for the rest of the season" as she pursues her qualification dream.

Adele's current longest throw is 14.33m but she will need to throw 15m twice in competition before July to qualify. A three-week trip to Arizona for a training camp in March awaits but Adele has made it public that she wants to have qualification wrapped before then. The student has an international meet in Vienna, the Welsh Under-20 Championships in February and the British Under-20 Championships in March.

Historic win for Eagles

IT was a momentous day for Oswestry's rugby players who secured their first win on the Isle of Man when prevailing 24-7 at Ramsey to maintain their revival in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

After years of trying, the Eagles finally broke their duck across the water as they continued their unbeaten start to the new year which has witnessed three league wins to keep them on course for a top five finish.

Charge – page 38

ALL-ACTION RACER LANDS TOP AWARD

WORLD champion downhill mountain biker Rachel Atherton was left "gobsmacked" after rounding off a fantastic season by scooping the BT Sport Action Woman Award.

In a special edition of The Clare Balding Show on BT Sport, Llanrhaeadr-based Atherton was crowned BT Action Woman of the Year following an all-conquering season in downhill mountain biking.

The award was designed to honour the sportswomen who have made the biggest impact and produced the most dynamic performance in a year of sporting success.

The short-list of nominees saw high-riding Atherton pitched against nine leading women already widely recognised for their exceptional contribution to their sport – sports such as tennis, football, athletics and swimming which have undoubtedly enjoyed far greater mainstream recognition.

by John Bridgwater

Accepting the award on behalf of the entire mountain-biking community, Atherton could not hide her delight after riding to several stunning victories in the World Cup last year.

Milestone

"I'm absolutely gobsmacked to have won the first ever BT Sport Action Women award," she said.

"The first thing I have got to say is a massive thankyou to every single person who voted for me and our sport, allowing me to showcase what a jaw dropping sport downhill mountainbiking is. This is a huge milestone in my career.

"The short list for this award was stacked with women who I personally take inspiration from. Being considered alongside them means the world to me and gives me even more motivation for the coming race season.

"Thanks also has to go to all my fantastic sponsors and my amazing team and family, without whom I would be less than nothing.

Rachel Atherton celebrates medal joy at last year's World Championships, in Pitermaritzburg, South Africa

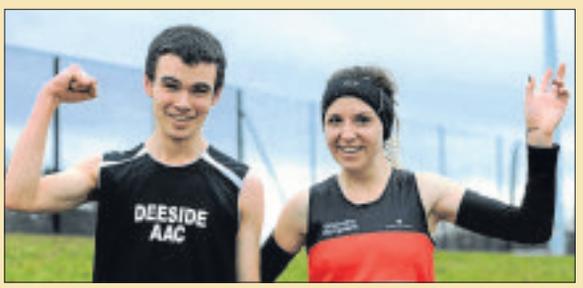
"Adding this award to my world titles goes a long way to saying thank you to all these people, because it's true that you really are only as good as the team around you."

Atherton Racing's Team Director Dan Brown said: "This fantastic award is well deserved and repayment for all of the tremendous hard work and super human effort that she put in for the entire 2013 season. "As Rachel says, this accolade goes beyond being an award for one athlete.

"Mainstream recognition for our sport doesn't come around often and this award was won through the outpouring of support from an entire community. This one is for all of us."

Llanrhaeadr mountain biking star Rachel Atherton competing in France

Triumphant runners blaze a trail



All smiles: Oswestry Olympians' Alison Lavender, right, won the ladies' event at the North Wales Cross-country League event in Lilleshall. Deeside AC athlete Tristan Henry, left was under-17 race winner. Sweet – page 39. Picture: Peter Flemmich

Town boss fearful of slide into dogfight

WELSHPOOL TOWN need to start picking up points fast to avoid being dragged into a basement dogfight in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

That's the warning from boss Russell Cadwallader whose side slipped to 11th in the table after their 4-0 home loss to Aberaeron, and anxiously looking over their shoulders at the sides below them.

"We're not taking our chances which is putting us under pressure in games and, with possibly three teams coming down from the Cymru Alliance, we could be in trouble," he said.

Cadwallader, whose side visit Carno on Saturday, has bolstered his squad by signing Harley Thomas from Newtown, but missed out on a key signing.

FOUR CROSSES also slipped deeper into trouble after suffering a 5-1 home loss to Aberystwyth University – their third five goal defeat in a row.

They visit unbeaten leaders Llandrindod Wells on Saturday, but they hope to strengthen their hand by resigning striker Steve Tomkins this week. But forward Luke Smith is off on his travels when heading for Thailand and Australia.

Reflecting on the University defeat, manager Nick Popyk said: "This current run of defeats is hurting and without improving fast, losing could well become a habit we don't want."

After their 8-2 romp at Tywyn Bryncrug, **WATERLOO ROVERS** bid to consolidate their top three position at Bow Street.

"Tywyn's always been a tough place for us to visit and we always seem to struggle there so I was delighted with the result and really pleased with the lads' application," said manager Dale Roberts.

Steve Hole cemented himself at the top of the goalscoring charts with four, with Charlie Proctor (3) and man of the match Marcus Ashley the other contributors. Elsewhere, Llanfair United return to duty at Aberystwyth University and Llansantffraid Village visit Tywyn Bryncrug.

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